**The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Parish of Welwyn,**

**Welwyn Team, Diocese of St Albans**

**THE FEAST OF MATTHEW THE APOSTLE**

**SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2025**

**8am Said Eucharist**

**9.30am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**(Common Worship Order 1)**

***Welcome! If you are new to this church please introduce yourself to one of the clergy and take a newcomers’ leaflet.***

***There is an induction loop for those with hearing aids.***

***All children and adults, regular and visitors, are***

***welcome to our Junior Church***

*Please join in the words in* **Bold** *in the order of service*

**THE SERVICE BEGINS HERE:**

*
Please stand to sing* ***HYMN:***

LIGHT of the minds that know him,

May Christ be light to mine!

My sun in risen splendour,

My light of truth divine;

My guide in doubt and darkness,

My true and living way,

My clear light ever shining

My dawn of heaven's day.

2 Life of the souls that love him,

May Christ be ours indeed!

The living bread from heaven

On whom our spirits feed;

Who died for love of sinners

To bear our guilty load,

And make of life's brief journey

A new Emmaus road.

3 Strength of the wills that serve him,

May Christ be strength to me,

Who stilled the storm and tempest,

Who calmed the tossing sea;

His Spirit's power to move me,

His will to master mine,

His cross to carry daily

And conquer in his sign.

4 May it be ours to know him

That we may truly love,

And loving, fully serve him

As serve the saints above;

Till in that home of glory

With fadeless splendour bright,

We serve in perfect freedom

Our strength, our life, our light.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

and also with you.

*The deacon introduces the confession*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you**

**in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The priest pronounces God's forgiveness*

*‘What are we thinking about today?’*

*– then Junior Church leaves for Church House*

*****We remain standing to sing:*

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,***

**Glory to God in the highest**
**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**
**we worship you, we give you thanks,**
**we praise you for your glory.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,*****Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**
**Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:**
**have mercy on us;**
**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,*****For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**
**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**
**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

*We remain standing for the collect:*

Let us pray:

O almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax-collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
 and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*We sit to listen to this Sunday’s bible reading.*

****A reading from the Book of Proverbs (3:13-18)

(read by )

13Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, 14for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. 15She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 16Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. 17Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:1-6)

*(read by )*

4Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. 3And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. 6For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand to sing the* ***HYMN:***

BLEST are the pure in heart,

For they shall see our God,

The secret of the Lord is theirs,

Their soul is Christ's abode.

2 The Lord, who left the heavens

Our life and peace to bring,

To dwell in lowliness with men,

Their pattern and their King;

3 Still to the lowly soul

He doth himself impart,

And for his dwelling and his throne

Chooseth the pure in heart.

4 Lord, we thy presence seek;

May ours this blessing be;

Give us a pure and lowly heart,

A temple meet for thee.

*Please remain standing and face the gospel:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

(9:9-13)

**Glor**y to you, O Lord.

9As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him.

10And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. 11When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ 12But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please sit for the* **Sermon**: Colin Hull, Reader

Please stand to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory**

**to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is**

**worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel for the intercessions*

***Sick:****Joan Gould, Pauline Lebeau, Graeme Emery, Robin Marson, Vickie Harris, Shem Biran, Mary Beard, Ann Gurney, Elizabeth Holloway, Lurlene Champagnie,  Penny Swain, Joyce Davis, John Wray, Georgina Laval,  Glynis Johnstone, Rod and Pip Dowdell, Matthew Codd, David Wilsher, Anne Symonds, Peter Branchflower, Patricia Brattle, Brian White, Margaret Paterson, Kath Meredith, Beth Bates*

***Departed:****Joyce Jackson*

*We use the following response*

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Please stand for The Peace, which the priest introduces with a sentence from Scripture*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

*We share the peace with our neighbours*

*******We sing the HYMN:*

HE sat to watch o'er customs paid,

A man of scorned and hardening trade;

Alike the symbol and the tool

Of foreign masters' hated rule.

2 But grace within his breast had stirred;

There needed but the timely word;

It came, true Lord of souls, from thee,

That royal summons, 'Follow me.'

3 Enough, when thou wast passing by

To hear thy voice, to meet thine eye:

He rose, responsive to the call,

And left his task, his gains, his all.

4 O wise exchange! with these to part,

And lay up treasure in the heart;

Who now with crown of light doth shine

Among the apostolic line.

5 Come, Saviour, as in days of old;

Pass where the world has strongest hold,

And faithless care and selfish greed

Are thorns that choke the holy seed.

6 Who keep thy gifts, O bid them claim

The steward's, not the owner's name;

Who yield all up for thy dear sake,

Let them of Matthew's wealth partake.

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***Please support the work of our church if you are able***

*In common with all other Church of England churches, Welwyn St Mary receives no money from the State or the Church of England. We are entirely dependent on donations from parishioners and visitors to support our church and its work in the community.*

*There will be no collection during the service, so*

* *If you wish to donate by card, please use the Giving Station by the door*
* *If you wish to donate by mobile phone, please use the QR code below*
* *If you wish to donate cash, place it in the offertory plate as you leave the church, please use a yellow envelope if you would like us to gift-aid your donation.*

***Please would you consider supporting us by regular giving?***

*We are members of the Parish Giving Scheme*

*(see*[*parishgiving.org.uk*](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fparishgiving.co.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cc2a75c3256e14a47962a08dd36de0cba%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638727049511508241%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7uawQa%2BLbF1uitV8fVY%2FGDspzH89FwCJqowKOiDYScs%3D&reserved=0)*and search for Welwyn St Mary).*

*You may choose monthly, quarterly or annual giving.****Thank you***

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**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,**

**the splendour, and the majesty;
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

Please remain standing throughout the prayer, but sit if you need to

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**I**t is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,..

.. And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

****Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,…

… Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day…

… all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please kneel or sit*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,

your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

*We sing**:*

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us (x2)**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Please move for communion following the direction of the stewards. All are welcome to come to the rail. Baptised Christians are welcome to receive the bread and the wine, all others are welcome to come for a blessing (please indicate this by crossing your arms and bowing your head).*

*During communion the choir sings the anthem ‘O for a closer walk with God’ by C V Stanford*

*And then we sing the hymn:*

MAY the grace of Christ our Saviour,

And the Father's boundless love,

With the Holy Spirit's favour,

Rest upon us from above.

2 Thus may we abide in union

With each other and the Lord,

And possess in sweet communion,

Joys which earth cannot afford.

3 To the God whose wisdom made us,

To the Son who set us free,

To the sanctifying Spirit,

Glory, endless glory, be.

*We pray together:*

**Almighty God,**

**who on the day of Pentecost**

**sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles**

**with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,**

**filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:**

**by the power of the same Spirit**

**strengthen us to witness to your truth**

**and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*We sit as the notices and banns of marriage are announced.*

*Then we stand to sing the* ***HYMN:***

WILL you come and follow me

If I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know

And never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

Will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown

In you and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind

If I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind

And never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare

Should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer

In you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see

If I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free

And never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,

And do such as this unseen,

And admit to what I mean

In you and you in me?

4 Will you love the 'you' you hide

If I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside

And never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found

To reshape the world around,

Through my sight and touch and sound

In you and you in me?

5 Lord, your summons echoes true

When you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you

And never be the same.

In your company I'll go

Where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow

In you and you in me.

*The priest says the blessing ending:*

…be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The ministers and people depart.

The organist plays a voluntary

All are welcome to stay for refreshments in Church House.

Please take this booklet with you.

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