

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas by Caravaggio, c. 1602

St Paul's Church • Ipswich
12 April 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Processional Hymn

The head that once was crowned with thorns [TIS 378]

The Invocation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Greeting

Christ is Risen. Alleluia!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Sentence

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1.3

Prayer of Approach

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence may be kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith,
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise, *Gloria in excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

Collect

**Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt:
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 2.14a; 2.22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—

this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,

nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16

¹ O Preserve me, O God:

for in you have I taken refuge.

² I have said to the Lord, You are my lord:

and all my good depends on you.

³ As for those who are held holy on the earth:

the other gods in whom people delight,

⁴ Though the idols are many that they run after:

their offerings of blood I will not offer,

nor take their name upon my lips.

⁵ The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:

you hold my lot in your hands.

⁶ The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:

and a fair land is my possession.

⁷ I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:

at night also he has instructed my heart.

⁸ I have set the Lord always before me:

he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:

my flesh also shall rest secure.

¹⁰ For you will not give me over to the power of death:

nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

¹¹ You will show me the path of life:

in your presence is the fulness of joy,

and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1.1-12

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Breath on me breath of God [TIS 407]

The Gospel

John 20.19-31

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

**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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The celebrant says.

Let us pray for the world, for the City of Ipswich and for the mission of the Church.

A minister continues

We give thanks for your Church throughout the world, O Lord, rejoicing in the glory of the risen Christ. Strengthen all bishops, priests, and deacons, and all your faithful people, that we may live as Easter people—renewed in hope, steadfast in faith, and abounding in love. May our words and deeds proclaim the victory of your resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world, and for all in positions of leadership and responsibility. Grant that the peace Christ gave to his disciples may bring healing where there is conflict, justice where there is oppression, and hope where there is despair. Inspire us to be peacemakers in our own community and beyond.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the world you have made: for those whose lives are affected by poverty, war, or natural disaster; for those without food, shelter, or safety. Bless all who work for the relief of suffering and the dignity of every person. May your risen life bring renewal to creation and restoration to your people.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We bring before you, O God, all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. Surround them with your healing presence, that they may know your peace and strength. We remember those caring for others, and all who feel weary or anxious in these uncertain times.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We remember those who mourn, especially any who grieve the loss of loved ones this Easter season. May the hope of resurrection lift their sorrow and your love sustain them through the days to come.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for this parish and for our city of Ipswich: for our families, neighbours, and all who share life with us in this community. May the joy of Easter fill our hearts and homes with peace, and may we walk together as children of the light.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Please join me as we pray the Ipswich Anglicans Prayer together:

**God of new beginnings,
bless our Ipswich Anglican community
with a fresh vision for the future,
with generous hearts to love one another,
and with courage for the changes we now embrace.
Draw us more deeply into the mystery of Christ,
so that we draw closer to you and to each other.
Make us a blessing to the city of Ipswich
as we walk together
into the future you have prepared for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn

We give immortal praise [TIS 118]

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer.
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, ever living God. We give you thanks and praise for
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit
was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. And now we give
you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant, and exalted him in
glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**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.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, in obedience to his command,
we commemorate and celebrate
his saving passion and death,
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father eternal,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

Invitation to the Table

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Holy things for holy people.
Broken things for broken people.

*Please note that intinction (dipping the bread) is forbidden as it is a health risk; it also introduces gluten to the wine, which is a further health risk to those who have a gluten allergy. Please ask the priest if you require a gluten free wafer.
If you do not wish to drink from the cup but want to acknowledge the sacramental presence, please feel free to pause briefly before the chalice and say 'Amen'.*

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

Most glorious Lord of life,
we thank you that you nourish us
in these Easter mysteries.
Fill us with the Spirit of love
and unite us in faith,
that we may witness to the resurrection
and show your glory to all the world. **Amen.**

Notices

Blessing

Almighty God,
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,
and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom,
give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your
eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

I know that my redeemer lives [TIS 376]

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