

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



The barren fig tree. AI-generated image

St Paul's Church  
23 March 2025

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

### Entry Hymn:

*Praise, my soul, the king of heaven [TIS 134]*

### The Invocation

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

### The Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Kids' Time with God

### Scripture Sentence

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.  
Isaiah 55.6

### Prayer of Preparation

**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.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

## Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*Silence may be kept.*

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

Isaiah 55:1–9

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

## Psalm 63:1–9

- 1 O God, you are my God:  
**eagerly will I seek you.**
- 2 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh longs for you:  
**as a dry and thirsty land where no water is.**
- 3 So it was when I beheld you in the sanctuary:  
**and saw your power and your glory.**
- 4 For your unchanging goodness is better than life:  
**therefore my lips shall praise you.**
- 5 And so I will bless you as long as I live:  
**and in your name will I lift my hands on high.**
- 6 My longing shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness:  
**my mouth shall praise you with exultant lips.**
- 7 When I remember you upon my bed:  
**when I meditate upon you in the night watches,**
- 8 How you have been my helper:  
**then I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings,**
- 9 Then my soul clings to you:  
**and your right hand upholds me.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did,

and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

### The Gospel Acclamation

[TIS 706]

**Bless the Lord, my soul,  
and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
who leads me into life.**

Jacques Berthier. Taizé community (1978)

### The Gospel

Luke 13:1–9

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

[At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that

they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”]

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

The celebrant introduces the prayers.

Let us pray for the world, the church and the city of Ipswich.

A minister continues.

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent. Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world.

[We pray for ...]

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.



Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred,  
and to seek peace.

[We pray for ...]

May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers,  
bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our  
families, neighbourhoods and communities.

[We pray for ...]

May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now  
made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others,  
and to give time, care and comfort to the sick.

[We pray for ...]

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the  
light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with  
those who have died in faith.

[Especially we hold ... in our minds.]

May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk  
alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us  
and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer,  
here and in eternity. Amen.**

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**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace  
receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Offertory Hymn**

*Jesus where your people meet [TIS 445]*

## **Prayers at the Table**

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring bread, made by many people's work from an unjust  
world where some have plenty and many go hungry.**

At this table, all are fed and no one turned away.

**Thanks be to God.**

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring wine, made by many people's work from an unjust world where some have leisure and many struggle to survive.**

At this table, all share the cup of pain and celebration and no one is denied.

**Thanks be to God.**

These gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ, our witness against hunger, our cry against injustice, and our hope for a world where God is fully known and every child is fed.

**Thanks be to God.**

Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer, at your table we present our gifts, symbol of the work you have given us to do; use it, use us, in the service of your world to the glory of your name.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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, everliving 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.

He was tempted in every way as we are,  
yet he did not sin.

By his death on the cross  
and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

By his grace we are able  
to triumph over every evil,  
and to walk in the way of his love.

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

**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.**

Holy God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,  
and we pray that we who eat and drink them  
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
may be partakers of his body and blood,  
and be made one with him and with each other  
in peace and love.

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.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,  
renew us by your Spirit  
that we may be united in the body of your Son  
and serve you as a royal priesthood  
in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom and in whom,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

### **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.

## **AFTER COMMUNION**

### **Kids' Time with God**

### **Notices**

### **Mission Hymn**

*Guide me, O thou great Redeemer* [TIS 569]

## **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

God of mercy,  
may we who have shared in this holy meal  
know your forgiveness in our lives,  
bring your reconciliation to others,  
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

**Most loving God,  
you send us into the world you love.  
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit.**

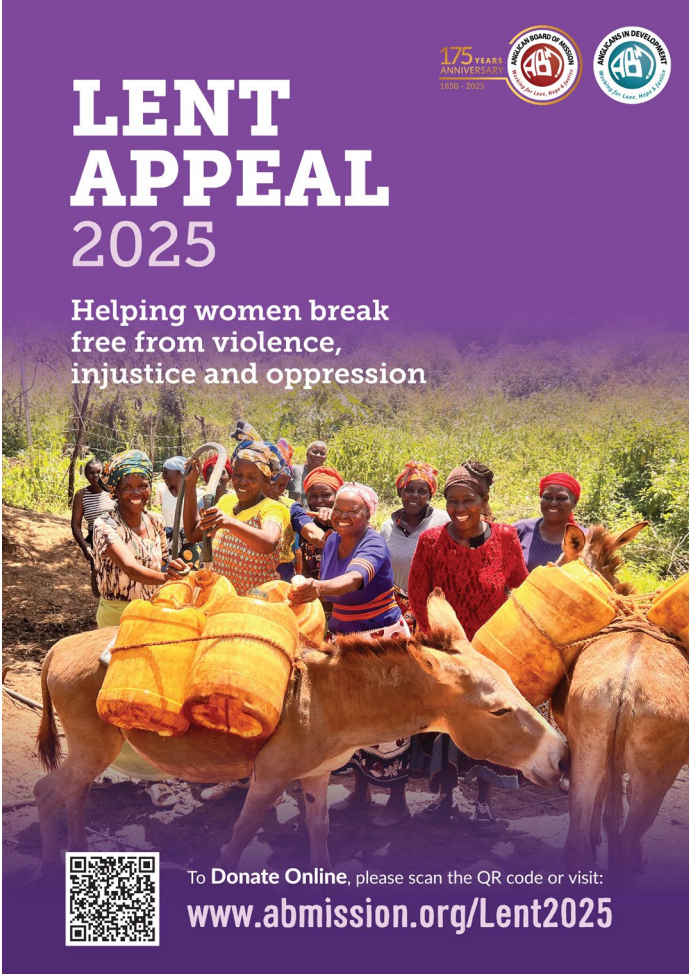
## The Blessing

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sin forgiven; 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.**

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# Parish FUTURES SEMINAR

Future Visioning Workshop

Sunday  
30th  
March

St Thomas' Church  
10.30am- 4:30pm



Run by  
Complexability P/L



RSVP: Parish Office on 38120377 or  
[ipswich@anglicanchurchsq.org.au](mailto:ipswich@anglicanchurchsq.org.au)