

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



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St Paul's Church • Ipswich
18 January 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Introit Hymn

Christ whose glory fills the skies [TIS 212]

The Invocation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and 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.

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Scripture Sentence

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9

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 and Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Silence may be kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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.**

These words of assurance from the First Letter of John declare that: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the offering for our sins, and not for us only, but for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

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 God,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and called to your service:
strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 49.1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'
And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,

'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'
Thus says the Lord ,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord , who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

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

Psalm 40.1-14

- ¹ I waited patiently for the Lord:
and he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- ² He brought me up from the pit of roaring waters,
out of the mire and clay:
and set my feet upon a rock, and made firm my foothold.
- ³ And he has put a new song in my mouth:
even a song of thanksgiving to our God.
- ⁴ Many shall see it and fear:
and shall put their trust in the Lord.
- ⁵ Blessed are those who have made the Lord their hope:
**who have not turned to the proud,
or to those who wander in deceit.**
- ⁶ O Lord my God, great are the wonderful things
which you have done, and your thoughts which are towards us:
there is none to be compared with you;
- ⁷ Were I to declare them and speak of them:
they are more than I am able to express.
- ⁸ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire:
but my ears you have marked for obedience;
- ⁹ Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required:
then said I, Lo, I come.

¹⁰ In the scroll of the book it is written of me,
that I should do your will:

O my God, I long to do it, your law delights my heart.

¹¹ I have declared your righteousness
in the great congregation:

**I have not restrained my lips, O Lord,
and that you know.**

¹² I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart:

I have spoken of your faithfulness and of your salvation.

¹³ I have not kept back your loving-kindness and your truth:
from the great congregation.

¹⁴ O Lord, do not withhold your mercy from me:

**let your loving-kindness and your truth
ever preserve me.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Gradual Hymn

Give thanks with a grateful heart [TIS 717]

The Gospel

John 1.29-42

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.

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.' The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

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.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The celebrant says.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
and let us thank God for his goodness..

A minister continues

God of the calling voice,
you walk into ordinary days and say, "Follow me."
Make your Church a people who listen before we speak,
who notice you before we promote ourselves,
who bear your light without needing to be the light.
Bless Jeremy our Archbishop and Metropolitan and Cameron our
Area Bishop, and all who serve in our parish.

Where faith feels tired, breathe courage; where hope is thin, sow your quiet resilience.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of the wide world,
you stand in every place where we say “there is no room,”
and you stay.

Look with mercy on this bruised earth: on places at war, on homes where fear is a frequent visitor, on all whose daily bread is uncertainty.

Guide those who carry public responsibility,
that power may be used as a borrowed gift,
never as a weapon of pride.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Christ who came to where people were, step close to all who suffer today: the sick, the lonely, the exhausted, the anxious, the grieving, and those who cannot yet find words for what hurts.

In the quiet we name them before you...

(short silence is kept).

Surround them with good companions, with patience, with skilled care, and with the strange peace that knows you are near.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of nations:

That they may govern with justice and mercy, reflecting your kingdom of peace and working tirelessly for the marginalized and oppressed.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of the final welcome, for you death is not a wall but a doorway. We remember before you those whom we have loved and see no longer, especially those who have died recently, and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Thank you for what they gave us and for what they taught us of you.

Gather us, in your time, into that place where every tear is translated into joy and every story is gathered into yours.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For our community and all gathered here:
That we may be a source of support and encouragement to one another, growing together in love and holiness as we seek to live out our baptismal vows in every aspect of our lives.
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**

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.**

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn *Come let us join our cheerful songs* [TIS 204]

During the offertory hymn the Sacrament which has been reserved from the 7.00-am Eucharist for use at this service will be brought to the Altar. The regular offertory prayer for the collection is then said.

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.

COMMUNION

In place of the usual Great Thanksgiving Prayer, the following words are said by the lay Minister.

The Gospel of St Luke tell us that:

At supper with his disciples on the night he was betrayed Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them saying, "this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

The Ipswich Anglican community of which we are members, has taken this bread and wine, and given thanks over it according to our Lord's command. I bring you these Holy Gifts so that you may share in the communion of our Lord's body and blood. For these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

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.**

Invitation to the Table

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Notices

Prayer after Communion

God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
Guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,
and establish your justice in the earth.

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.

May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will, working in you what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen

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

Recessional Hymn

Hark! A herald voice is calling [TIS 264]

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