

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Joseph and his brothers, Rembrandt van Rijn (1640-1674)

St Paul's • Ipswich
13 September 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Processional Hymn: *Gather us in, ground us in you [TIS 474]*

The Invocation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Kid Time with God

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Sentence

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Psalm 130.3-4

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, with a sincere and a true heart.

**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.**

Words of Assurance

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

O God,
you call your Church to witness that in Christ
we are reconciled to you:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may turn to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Genesis 50.15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God

intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103.1-13

¹ Praise the Lord, O my soul:

and all that is within me, praise his holy name.

² Praise the Lord, O my soul:

and forget not all his benefits,

³ Who forgives all your sin:

and heals all your infirmities,

⁴ Who redeems your life from the Pit:

and crowns you with mercy and compassion;

⁵ Who satisfies your being with good things:

so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ The Lord works righteousness:

and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses:

and his works to the children of Israel.

⁸ The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

slow to anger and of great goodness.

⁹ He will not always be chiding:

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins:

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth:

so great is his mercy over those that fear him;

¹² As far as the east is from the west:

so far has he set our sins from us.

¹³ As a father is tender towards his children:

so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.

Second Reading

Romans 14.1-14

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.

² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

⁴ Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

¹¹ For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.’

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

¹³ Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another.

¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean..

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *In faith and Hope and love* [TIS 628]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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 to the God of boundless mercy, whose love reaches beyond every border and barrier.

A minister continues

Gracious and loving God, strengthen your Church throughout the world. We pray for Jeremy our Archbishop, for Cameron our Bishop, and for all clergy and people of this diocese and parish, that we may proclaim your gospel with courage and grace. Keep us steadfast in prayer, attentive to your word, and generous in service. Help us welcome the stranger, seek those who feel lost, and share the hope of Christ with humility and joy.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

God of all nations, we pray for the world you love: for places torn by war and violence, for peacemakers and negotiators, for all who lead the nations. Give to those in authority wisdom and compassion, that the strong may act justly and the vulnerable be protected, and that all peoples may live together in peace.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

God of justice and peace, guide the leaders of nations and all who hold authority. Give them wisdom, integrity, and compassion. Bring peace where there is conflict, reconciliation where there is division, and justice where people suffer oppression. Teach us to care for your creation and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Compassionate God, bless our homes, schools, workplaces, and communities. Draw near to those who are lonely, anxious, grieving, or afraid. Bring healing to all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, and give strength and patience to those who care for them. We remember especially those known to us.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Eternal God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have died. Receive them into the peace of your presence and comfort all who mourn. Strengthen us to live faithfully, trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life.

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

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: *All things bright and beautiful [TIS 135]*

During the offertory hymn the Sacrament which has been reserved from the 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.**

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.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*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

Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

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.

Kids Time with God & Notices

God of peace, may you equip us with everything good for doing your will, working in us that which is pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

Recessional Hymn: *We have a gospel to proclaim [TIS 245]*

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