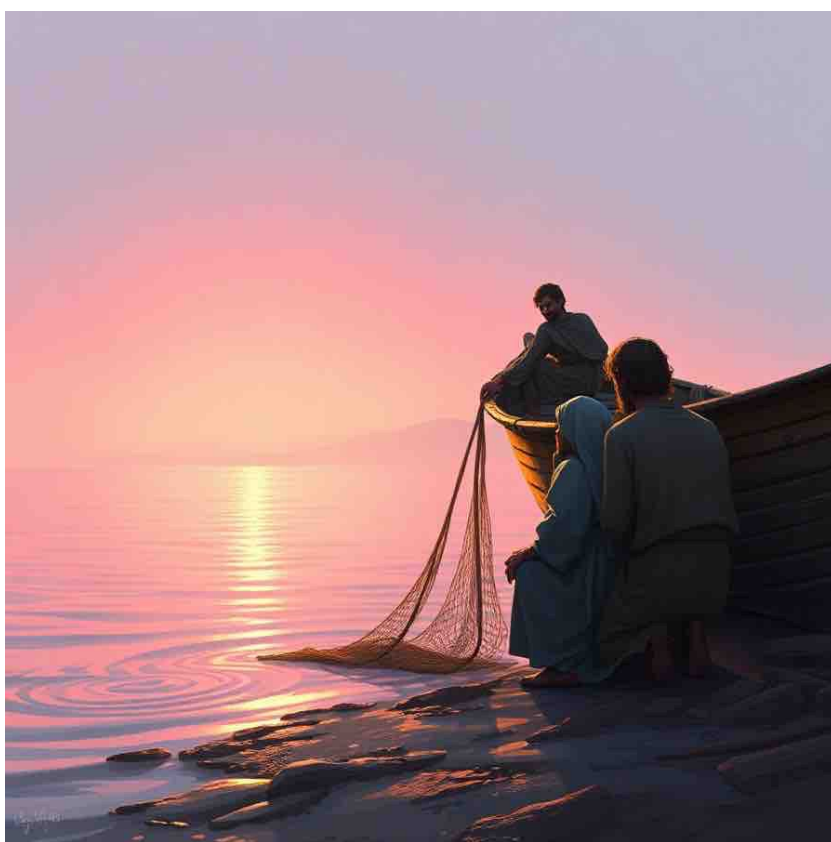


## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



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St Paul's Church • Ipswich  
25 January 2026

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **Introit Hymn**

*Forth in thy name O lord I go [TIS 571]*

### **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**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

Psalm 27.1

### **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**

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.**

## **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**

O God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you:  
mercifully accept our prayers,  
and because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

Isaiah 9.1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

### Psalm 27.1-10

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?:  
**the Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

<sup>2</sup> When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come upon me  
to devour me:

**they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid:  
**and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.**

<sup>4</sup> One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require:  
**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**

<sup>5</sup> To see the fair beauty of the Lord:  
**and to seek his will in his temple.**

<sup>6</sup> For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble:  
**and conceal me in the shadow of his tent, and set me high upon a rock.**

<sup>7</sup> And now he will lift up my head:

**above my enemies round about me.**

<sup>8</sup> And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation:

**I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.**

<sup>9</sup> O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:

**have mercy upon me and answer me.**

<sup>10</sup> My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':

**your face, Lord, I will seek.**

## **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1.10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Hear the word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn**

*In heavenly love abiding [TIS 588]*

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.**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the  
Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.’

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen.

And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains,

demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them.  
And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis,  
Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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

**A minister continues**

God of dawning light,  
you walk into our Galilees of routine and regret  
and speak the simple, life-changing words: "Follow me."  
Turn your Church from gloom to grace,  
from arguing about the net  
to sharing the catch.

Bless Jeremy our Archbishop and Metropolitan and Cameron our  
Area Bishop, and all who serve in our parish.  
Where there is weariness, give your steady joy;  
where there is division, teach us the grammar of forgiveness.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God whose light falls on both the anxious and the at ease,  
shine on the places that feel overshadowed today:  
on war-scarred streets,  
on homes where silence is sharper than words,  
on minds tangled in fear.

Give wisdom to those who carry public responsibility,  
and plant in all of us a hunger for what makes peace,  
not just what makes profit.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God who mends nets and mends people,  
draw near to all who feel broken or left behind:  
the sick, the lonely, the exhausted,  
those waiting for results, answers, or relief.  
In quiet we name before you those on our hearts...  
*(short silence is kept).*

Let your compassion be the tide that carries them,  
and make us willing to be its waves.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of every shore,  
we remember those who have followed you through death's dark  
water into the brightness of your nearer presence.  
We give you thanks for those who have died recently, and those  
whose year's mind falls at this time.

Gather us, in your time,  
into that great company where all shadows are gentled by your  
light, and every story finds its true ending in you.

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

*Lord Christ, at your first eucharist you prayed [TIS 521]*

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.

You anointed him as Messiah, the light of the nations, and  
revealed him as the hope of all who thirst for righteousness and  
peace.

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.

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.**

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary. Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.

You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way.

While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.'

He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever.

With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

**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**

### **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.**

## Blessing

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,  
that your lives may be a light to the world;  
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

*Take up your cross the Saviour said* [TIS 583]

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