

DAYS OF THE ASCENSION



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St Paul's Church • Ipswich
14 May 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Processional Hymn:

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

The Greeting

Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The peace of God be with you

And also with you.

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Kids' Time With God

Sentence

This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 17.3

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 and Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ has entered heaven itself, there to appear before God on our behalf.

Silence may be kept.

Let us therefore draw near in full assurance of faith, and confess our sins to the God of grace.

**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

O God,
whose Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples,
and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your
kingdom:
by your Holy Spirit,
hold the Church in unity,
and keep it faithful to your word,
so that, breaking bread together,
we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service,
now and for ever.
Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 1.6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the

mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68.1-10; 68.32-35

¹ God shall arise, and his enemies shall be scattered:

those that hate him shall flee before his face.

² As smoke is dispersed, so shall they be dispersed:

as wax melts before a fire, so shall the wicked perish at the presence of God.

³ But the righteous shall be glad and exult before God:

they shall rejoice with gladness.

⁴ O sing to God, sing praises to his name:

glorify him that rode through the deserts, him whose name is the Lord, and exult before him.

⁵ He is the father of the fatherless, he upholds the cause of the widow:

God in his holy dwelling place.

⁶ He gives the desolate a home to dwell in, and brings the prisoners out into prosperity:

but rebels must dwell in a barren land.

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people:

when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ The earth shook, the heavens poured down water:

before the God of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

⁹ You showered down a generous rain, O God:

you prepared the land of your possession when it was weary.

¹⁰ And there your people settled:

in the place that your goodness, O God, had made ready for the poor.

³² Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth:

O sing praises to the Lord,

³³ To him that rides upon the highest heavens,
that were from the beginning:

who utters his voice, which is a mighty voice.

³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel:

and his might is in the clouds.

³⁵ Terrible is God who comes from his holy place:

the God of Israel who gives power and strength to his people.

Blessed be God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 5

Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you, and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *God is Gone Up on High [TIS 371]*

The Gospel

John 17.1-11

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.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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, knowing that Christ prays for us and in us.

A minister continues

Grant, eternal God, that your Church may be a truthful sign of the risen and ascended Christ. Deepen our wonder at the mystery we proclaim, and make us attentive to the quiet work of your Spirit in places we overlook. Strengthen Cameron our bishop, together with Jeremy our archbishop and metropolitan, and Mark our Primate; give them the courage to speak with clarity and the gentleness to listen with love. Bless all who minister in this parish, that our life together may hint at your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the nations in the way that makes for peace. Where words are careless, make them wise; where power is brittle, make it humble; where fear closes doors, open them by hope. Teach us to seek the common good with patience, imagination, and compassion, mindful that our neighbour is always larger than our understanding.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Let your healing Spirit rest upon all who suffer. Hold in your tenderness those weighed down by illness, loneliness, or grief. Steady the hands of those who care for others, and grant that none may feel abandoned in the shadows. In every wound, kindle the light that no darkness can overcome.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Bless our homes, our friendships, and our daily work. Make us attentive to the grace that threads through small things, to the holiness that greets us in each human face.

Where relationships are strained, sow forgiveness; where hearts are closed, breathe openness; where joy has faded, awaken gratitude.

Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

We remember before you all who have died, especially Lorna, and all whose lives have shaped our own. Gather them into your peace, where longing is met and love is fulfilled. Teach us to live in the light of that hope, trusting that Christ has gone before us to prepare a place where all shall be made whole.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the communion of all your saints, we commit ourselves and all creation to your unfailing love.

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 always with you.

Offertory Hymn: *I am the Bread of life [TIS 535]*

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 or Deacon.

In the first letter of John, we read: "We are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."

In fellowship with the whole Church of God, with all who have been brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship on this day, and who have celebrated the Eucharist, let us rejoice that we are called to be part of the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one Bread.

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

These holy gifts are now offered to us that in communion with members of the Ipswich Anglican Community who celebrated the Divine Mysteries earlier today, we may share in the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

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

God of glory you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

**Strengthen us who share this meal
to continue his mission
by living the good news we proclaim.
Amen.**

Kids' time With God

Notices

The minister says the following:

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

Recessional Hymn: *Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son [TIS 380]*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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