

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**They who
have my
commandments
and keep them
are those
who love me.**

John 14.21 (NRSV)



St. Paul's Church • Ipswich
10th May, 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Processional Hymn: *All creatures of our God and King* [TIS 100]

The Invocation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

The Greeting

Christ is Risen. Alleluia! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Kids' Time With God

Sentence

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

John 14.23

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 is kept

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**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, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our
understanding: pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all
else, we may obtain your promises that exceed all we can desire; through Jesus

Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 17.22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66.7-19

⁷ O bless our God, you peoples: and cause his praises to resound,

⁸ **Who has held our souls in life: who has not suffered our feet to slip.**

⁹ For you have proved us, O God: you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹⁰ **You brought us into the net: you laid sharp torment on our loins.**

¹¹ You let our enemies ride over our heads, we went through fire and water: but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

¹² **I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:**

and I will pay you my vows,

¹³ The vows that opened my lips:

that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.

¹⁴ **I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts, with the sweet smoke of rams: I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.**

¹⁵ Come then and hear, all you that fear God: and I will tell what he has done for me.

¹⁶ **I called to him with my mouth: and his praise was on my tongue.**

¹⁷ If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:

the Lord would not have heard me.

¹⁸ **But God has heard me: he has heeded the voice of my prayer.**

¹⁹ Praise be to God: who has not turned back my prayer,

or his steadfast love from me.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3.8-22

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For ‘Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of

Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

Gradual Hymn: *Tell out my Soul* [TIS 161]

The Gospel

John 14.15-21

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.

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

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 world, for the church, and for those whose suffering is hidden.

The intercessor continues

Loving God, creator and sustainer of all. You bring light into darkness, and darkness cannot overcome the light of your love. We ask that the light of your love will reveal that which is so often hidden. Pour out your love into the hearts of those who lead our nations. Shine on the suffering of your people who live amongst war and unrest. Grant them safety and courage.

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

We bring before your merciful gaze those of our sisters and brothers who are ill. For those who continue on their journey of recovery, remind them daily of their strength to survive. When they grow weary, be their strength and their fortress, a resting place in times of struggle.

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

Lord we long for that day when there will be no more tears or crying or pain, when your glory will cover the earth, and our hope peace will be completed in you. We ask that we might live up to our call to be light in the world, standing

with you for justice. We ask that our churches would be places where women and men live and serve together in true dignity, equality and respect; where each one's giftings are acknowledged and given space to flourish as your Spirit leads.

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.

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: *Rejoice the Lord is King* [TIS 216]

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.

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

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and singing:

**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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them

may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

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."

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, in obedience to his command, we commemorate and celebrate his saving passion and death, his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father eternal, 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.**

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

Prayer after Communion

Most glorious Lord of life, we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries. Fill us with the Spirit of love and unite us in faith, that we may witness to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world. **Amen.**

Kids' Time With God

Notices

Prayer for those Receiving the Travelling Cross

The Leader says

Gracious God, we give you thanks for members of the household of faith as they receive the travelling cross
— a sign of your presence and our shared life in Christ.

Congregation says

**May this cross remind them of your love and presence each day,
and of your strength in times of need.**

**Be present in their daily lives – in their joys and their challenges,
and keep them close to you.**

Leader says

As they pray beneath this cross,
may they also remember this congregation in their prayers —
that together, we may grow in faith, love, and service.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation responds

Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God,
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,
and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom,
give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; 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: *Come down on the love divine* [TIS 398]

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