

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



The Caravan of Abraham by James Tissot (before 1903)

St Paul's Church • Ipswich
01 March 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Introit Hymn

Dear Father, Lord of humankind [TIS 598]

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, Introduction & Acknowledgement of Country

Kids' Time with God

Scripture Sentence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3.16

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.

Penitence

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Silence may be kept.

Let us then ask for mercy, 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)

Collect

God of mercy,
you are full of tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in mercy,
and always ready to forgive:
grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ,
that in every way we may prove to be your loving children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Genesis 12.1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills:
but where shall I find help?
2 My help comes from the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.
3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble:
and he who watches over you will not sleep.
4 Be sure he who has charge of Israel:
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord himself is your keeper:
the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day:
nor shall the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will defend you from all evil:
it is he who will guard your life.

⁸ The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:
from this time forward for evermore.

Second Reading

Romans 4.1-5; 4.13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

Gradual Hymn

Great is your faithfulness [TIS 154]

The Gospel

Matthew 17.1-9

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.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

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 promise and pilgrimage,
you called Abram to trust what he could not yet see.
Call your Church again to such believing — that we may walk by
faith in the wide, bright landscapes of your grace.
We pray for Jeremy our Archbishop, for Cameron our Regional
Bishop, and for all who nurture the faith of your people in this land
of open skies and subtropical hope.
Keep your Church attentive to your whisper amid the noise,
and gracious in how we bear your light in the world.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the nations,
you bless the families of the earth through the trust of your
servants. In a world weary with pride and division, sow among us
seeds of understanding. Bless all who lead and govern, that they
may act with wisdom, compassion and courage.
We give thanks for this ancient land, nurtured for millennia by First
Nations peoples. May we be faithful stewards of the soil, the reef,
and the rainforest—reminded that creation itself is a covenant of
your love.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the everyday and the extraordinary,
you are present in our seaside mornings and our inland evenings,
in classrooms, sheds, hospitals, and homes.
Bless those whose work sustains the common good,
and all whose quiet care restores the weary and the lost.
When floods unsettle or droughts parch the land,
stand by those who suffer and strengthen our resolve to stand by
them.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of mercy and healing,
your Son spoke peace into fear and hope into hearts grown thin.
We bring before you all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit—
those who grieve, and those who wait for signs of renewal.
In their shadowed places, let your gentleness speak louder than
pain.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of eternity,
you bring us from the tents of our days into the home of your
heaven. We remember before you the faithful departed,
especially those whom we love but see no longer.
May they rest in your peace everlasting,
and rise in the brightness of your presence.
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

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you bring us from the tents of our days into the home of your
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your presence.
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

Brother sister let me serve you [TIS 650]

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.**

*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'.*

Communion Anthem: *Ave Maria (sung by Fiona Palmer)*

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

God of life and death,
from the fullness of yourself you have created all that is;
through the power of your love you call us towards you;
in the giving of your Son our salvation has been wrought.
Our flowering and our passing, all the seasons of the vine,
belong to you.
Bless us now and in all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Children's Ministry

Notices

Blessing

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified
a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven;
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

Seek ye first the kingdom of God [TIS 745]

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