

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Font: St Thomas' Church, North Ipswich

St Paul's Church • Ipswich
21 June 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Processional Hymn

God is our strength and refuge [TIS 28]

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.

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Kids Time with God

Sentence

Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus' sake will find it.

Matthew 10.39

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.**

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

Gracious God,
we who were baptised into Christ Jesus
were baptised into his death:
we pray that, as you raised him from death,
so by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may live the new life to your glory,
knowing ourselves to be dead in sin
but alive for you in Jesus Christ;
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 21.8-21

⁸ The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. ¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite

him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86.1-10, 16-17

¹ Incline your ear to me, O God, and answer me:

for I am poor and in misery.

² Preserve my life, for I am faithful:

My God, save your servant who trusts in you.

³ Be merciful to me, O Lord:

for I call to you all the day long.

⁴ O make glad the soul of your servant:

for I put my hope in you, O Lord.

⁵ For you, Lord, are good and forgiving:

of great and continuing kindness

to all who call upon you.

⁶ Hear my prayer, O Lord:

and give heed to the voice of my supplication.

⁷ In the day of my trouble I call upon you:

for you will surely answer.

⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord:

nor are there any deeds like yours.

⁹ All the nations you have made

shall come and worship before you:

O Lord, they shall glorify your name.

¹⁰ For you are great and do marvellous things:

and you alone are God.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be merciful,
give your strength to your servant:
and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷ Show me some token of your goodness:
**that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed,
because you, Lord, are my helper and my comforter.**

Second Reading

Romans 6.1-11

¹ What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gradual Hymn: *All my hope on God is founded [TIS 560]*

The Gospel

Matthew 10.24-39

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.

²⁴ 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;
²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!
²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.
²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.
²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father.
³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted.
³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.
³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;
³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.
³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.
³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;
³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The celebrant says.

Today we ask you to join with Mother Union Worldwide in celebrating 150 years of ministry in 84 countries.

A minister continues

Faithful and loving God, who called Mary Sumner to strive for the renewal of family life and for her vision for a fellowship of women committed to prayer and service, supporting each other and their communities. Give us the gift of your Holy Spirit, that through your word, prayer and action your family may be strengthened and your people served.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

We pray for MU members and leaders worldwide that they may work towards making a meaningful difference in the lives of millions through unique, faith based and community-led approaches to tackling poverty, injustice and violence. We pray for all who engage in advocacy against gender and family violence especially through the 16 Days of Activism. Give members and us all, courage to boldly speak out about issues in society that destabilise family life.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

Lord, we ask your blessing on all families who are experiencing war, trauma, displacement, poverty, hunger or distress. We pray for efforts to advocate for human rights, to reduce marginalization and oppression and promote gender equity; especially projects that offer educational opportunities, build resilience and empowerment skills especially for women and girls. May the Good News of love of Jesus and his saving grace be shared and lived in all faith communities and beyond.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

We pray for the members of the Mothers' Union in this Diocese of Brisbane as they seek your guidance into the future. We pray for Bishop Cam Venable and our diocesan clergy and people, for the MU Diocesan President, all branch leaders, the trustees and all our members, that they may remain resilient and focused on the support of family life within the church and the communities in which we live.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

Loving Lord, we pray for your healing hand on all who are physically and or emotionally unwell, those without hope, the unemployed, and those living on the fringes of society. We pray for survivors of domestic abuse who have found in us a place of safety and new hope; for people in prison, who we visit and do not forget, in whom we seek and find your face. We give you thanks for all who bring hope, comfort and healing. We commend to you all those listed in our pew bulletin and others that are on our own hearts

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

Jesus the risen Christ, we give thanks and pray for those who have died recently including Donald Ferguson and pray for their family and friends. Lord, we give you thanks today for the life and witness of Mary Sumner and her vision in creating Mothers Union. We live in the hope of the resurrection when we will share with all your saints in your eternal presence.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

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: *I heard the voice of Jesus say [TIS 585]*

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.

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.**

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

Giver of life and love,

we thank you that in this heavenly banquet

you invigorate and renew us.

Living in the unity of the Spirit, may we boldly use your gifts to continue your work in the world.

Amen.

Children's Ministry

Notices

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: Sent forth by God's blessing [TIS 531]

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