

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Windows depicting the Parable of the Sower at St Paul's Church, Ipswich.
Dedicated to Donald and Marth Cameron (d. 1916)*

St Paul's Church • Ipswich
12 July 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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Sentence

'The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life.'

John 6.63, 68

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.**

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

Bountiful God,
we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:
by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, and to live
according to it, that we may grow in faith and hope and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Genesis 25.19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.'

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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

Psalm 119.105-112

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lantern to my feet:
and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have vowed and sworn an oath:
to keep your righteous judgements.

¹⁰⁷ I have been afflicted beyond measure:
Lord, give me life according to your word.

¹⁰⁸ Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:
and teach me your judgements.

¹⁰⁹ I take my life in my hands continually:
yet I do not forget your law.

¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me:
but I have not strayed from your precepts.

¹¹¹ Your commands are my inheritance for ever:
they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹² I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end.

Second Reading

Romans 8.1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *Your words to me are life and health [TIS 430]*

The Gospel

Matthew 13.1-9; 18-23

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.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came

and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!’ ‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

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.

Trusting that God's word takes root in us and bears fruit, let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world.

A minister continues

God of the sower, you scatter the seed of your word with reckless abandon. Prepare the soil of our hearts, that your word may not be snatched away, wither in shallow ground, or be choked by the cares of this life. We pray for the Anglican Church of Australia, for our Diocese of Brisbane and Jeremy our Archbishop, and for Cameron our Bishop and the parishes and people of the Western Region. Make us hearers who understand and doers who bear fruit with patience.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Your word in a lamp lighting every step on our path. Shine that light on the nations and on all who govern, that they may walk in the ways of justice, mercy, and peace. Where the world is sown with conflict, greed, or fear, let your commonwealth take root instead, and bring forth a harvest of righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

We give thanks for this land – for its first peoples, its towns people, its farmers, its families and seasonal Islander farm workers. Bless those who sow and reap, who tend the soil and wait upon the seasons, and teach us all to receive our daily life as your gift. Where there is division grant reconciliation and turn our rivalries into peace and flourishing coexistence.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Christ is indeed our healer. Breathe your Spirit upon all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit — the sick, the anxious, the grieving, and any known to us who need your healing – especially those named in our pew bulletin. Where life feels burdensome, let your Spirit dwell and make it fruitful.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

We remember before you those who have died, whose lives were each a seed sown in good soil and who now share the harvest of your heavenly commonwealth. Grant them, and all who have gone before us in faith, the fullness of life in the Spirit, where there is no more condemnation but only your everlasting mercy.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Gather these prayers, O God, and by your Spirit make them fruitful; for you are the one who gives the growth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: *An upper room did our Lord prepare [TIS 536]*

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 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.

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."

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.

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.

Notices

Blessing

The peace of God which passes understanding keep your hearts and
minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Recessional Hymn: *Lord of earth and all creation [TIS 672 (ii)]*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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A FESTIVAL OF HERITAGE

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL
2026

Quilt & Craft SHOW

3rd to 5th September
from
9am to 3pm

St Paul's Church,
124 Brisbane Street, Ipswich

- Quilts
- Cross Stitch
- Spinning
- Weaving
- Wood Working Display



Refreshments, light lunches, craft & second-hand books for sale.

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Church
Ipswich Anglican Community

Co-ordinator:
Verna Hunt - 0409 062 485

