I

Anglican Church
Ipswich Anglican Community

DEFENCE SUNDAY



Combined Eucharist at St Paul's Church• Ipswich
08 November 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Introit Hymn *To God be the glory, great things he has done [TIS 147]*

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 & Acknowledgement of Country

Scripture Sentence and Introduction

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24.42,44

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, 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

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Joshua 24.1-3a; 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord , the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; 'Now therefore revere the Lord , and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord . Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord , choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me

and my household, we will serve the Lord .' Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord , for he is our God.' But Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord , for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.' And the people said to Joshua, 'No, we will serve the Lord !' Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord , to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' He said, 'Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord , the God of Israel.' The people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.' So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78.1-7

Give heed to my teaching, O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth;
For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.
What we have heard and known:
what our forebears have told us,
We will not hide from their children,
but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
his mighty and wonderful works.

He established a law in Jacob
and made a decree in Israel:
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
That future generations might know,
and those yet unborn:
that they in turn might teach it to their children;
So that they might put their confidence in God:
and not forget his works, but keep his commandments.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4.9-18

Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, so that you may behave properly towards outsiders and be dependent on no one. But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Gradual Hymn *Make me a channel of your peace [TIS 607]*

The Gospel *Matthew 25.1-13*

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.

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon – Ven. Mpole Masemola

Address – MAJ Cate Carter

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, trusting in the God who is our rock and our fortress, who calls us to keep faith with every generation.

A minister continues

God of steadfast love, whose mercy endures for ever, we pray for your Church throughout the world, for the Anglican Church of Australia, for Jeremy our Archbishop, for the Australian Defence Force Anglicans and for the Bishop to the Defence Force. Raise up among us faithful shepherds, chaplains and intercessors, who will stand with your people in the places of danger and weariness; keep us from the idols of our own making, and let your salvation be known to the ends of the earth.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

Creator God, whose grace is sufficient for us and whose power is made perfect in weakness, we pray for the men and women of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force, wherever they serve. We pray for those who govern the nations, for the just use of force, for restraint in the hour of victory and mercy in the hour of defeat.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we give thanks for the families and communities of our region, and for those who keep the home fires burning while a loved one is away. Clothe us in the garment of your grace, that we may come not in our own righteousness but in the mercy of Christ, bearing the fruit of patience, kindness and faithfulness.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit: for the wounded and the broken in body; for those carrying the unseen wounds of service and the memory; for those who care for them, and for all the sick. We give you thanks for all who have died in the service, and we commend into your keeping those who have died in

this time. Search us and know us, hold us through every dark valley, and lead us in the way everlasting. Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting
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

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn *Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us [TIS 580]*

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.

It is right to praise you, faithful God,
always and everywhere,
for with your only begotten Son
and life-giving Spirit,
you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing
a universe of beauty and splendour,
bringing light from darkness
and order from chaos.

You formed us, male and female, in your image,
and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us.
You called us by name and searched us out,
making a covenant of mercy,
giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you,
joining with your faithful people of every time and place,
singing the eternal song:

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.

When the fullness of time was come,
you sent your Son to be born of Mary.

Bright image of your glory,
he learnt obedience to you in all things,
even to death on a cross,
breaking the power of evil,
freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.

You raised him from death,
exalting him to glory,
and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed
your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends,
his companions on the way.

While at table he took bread,
blessed, and broke it,
and giving it to them, said:
'Take, eat; this is my body.'

He took a cup of wine,
and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
'This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command,
we remember his life of obedience to you,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and exaltation,
and his promise to be with us for ever.
With this bread and this cup
we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration
that all who eat and drink at this table
may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood
to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people,
may we proclaim the everlasting gospel
of Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

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'.

Music during Communion: *Vale*
Words by: Thomas Stewart
Music by: Cate Carter

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

Father of all
we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us in this hope that we have grasped:
so we and all your people will be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.

Notices

We will remember them. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them. They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and all humanity: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; 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(i)]*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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