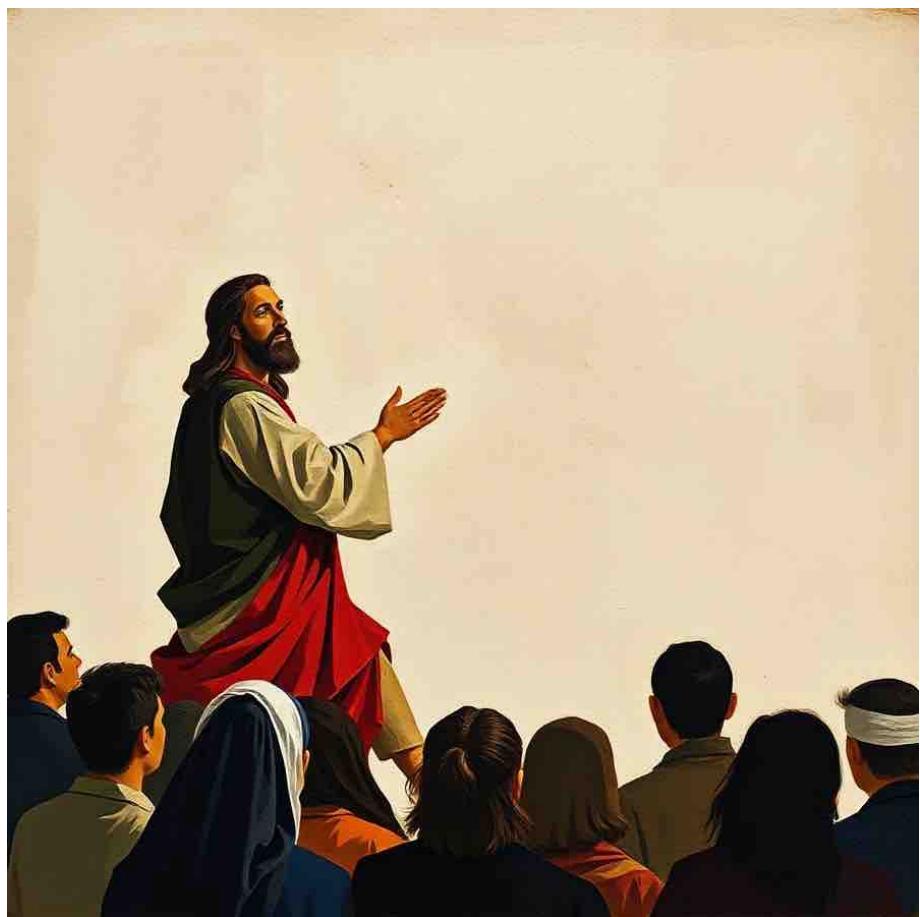




FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



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St Paul's Church • Ipswich
01 February 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Introit Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' name [TIS 224]

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

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6.8

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 and Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Silence may be kept.

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

Righteous God,
you confound the world's wisdom
by giving your blessing to the lowly and pure in heart:
give us such a hunger and thirst for justice
and perseverance in striving for peace,
that in our words and deeds
the world may see the promise of your kingdom,
which has been revealed in 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

Micah 6.1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord ,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord .’

‘With what shall I come before the Lord ,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle:
or who may dwell upon your holy hill?
2 Whoever leads an uncorrupt life
and does the thing which is right:
who speaks the truth from the heart,
and has not slandered with the tongue;
3 Who has done no evil to a friend:
nor vented abuse against a neighbour;
4 In whose eyes the worthless have no honour:
but who makes much of those that fear the Lord;
5 Whoever has sworn to a neighbour:
and will not go back on that oath;
6 Who has not put money to usury:
nor taken a bribe against the innocent.
7 Whoever does these things:
shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
For it is written,
'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,
so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

In the cross of Christ I glory [TIS 349]

The Gospel

Matthew 5.1-12

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.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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.

**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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
and let us thank God for his goodness.

A minister continues

Almighty God,
you have called your Church to be a sign of your kingdom in the world.

Bless Jeremy our Archbishop, Cameron our Area Bishop,
and all who minister in your name.

Give us grace to live out the Beatitudes:
to seek your kingdom before all things,
to hunger and thirst for righteousness,
and to walk the way of mercy and peace.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of justice and compassion,
we pray for the nations of the world,
for all who exercise authority and power.

Where there is conflict, bring peace;
where there is injustice, raise up those who work for what is right;
where there is fear and instability,
grant courage, wisdom, and restraint.

We remember the poor, the hungry,
the unemployed, the displaced, and those caught in war.
May your blessing rest on all who work
for relief, reconciliation, and the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of blessing,
look with kindness on this parish and community.
Guide our homes and families,
our schools, workplaces, and places of rest.
Make us gentle and generous with one another,
quick to forgive, and slow to judge.
May your Spirit shape us into people
who bear one another's burdens
and reflect the light of Christ where we live.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

God of all comfort,
we bring before you those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit,
those who are anxious or lonely,
those in hospital, in care, or at home.
(Short pause)

Surround them with your healing presence,
and bless all who care for them:
families, friends, carers, and medical staff.
Give them patience, hope, and the assurance of your love.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

God of life and hope,
we remember before you those whom we love but see no longer,
and all who have died in the faith of Christ.
(Short pause)

Grant them your peace and the light of your presence;
and give to those who mourn
the comfort of your nearness
and the hope of your eternal kingdom,
where every tear is wiped away
and all your saints rejoice in your presence.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine upon them.
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
and of all your saints,
we commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to your unfailing love.

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

Blest are the pure in heart [TIS 448]

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.**

Invitation to the Table

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

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

God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
Guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,
and establish your justice in the earth.

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

Kids' Time With God

Notices

Blessing

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,
that your lives may be a light to the world;
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

Lord of all creation, to you be all praise [TIS 626]

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