

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



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Revd. Bill Ross' 50th Priestly Anniversary
St Paul's Church • Ipswich
08 February 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Introit Hymn

Come as you are [TIS 693]

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

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

Psalm 27.1

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

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

Silence may be kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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.**

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

Father of all,
who gave your only-begotten Son
to take upon himself the form of a servant
and to be obedient even to death on a cross:
give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus,
that, sharing in his humility,
we may come to be with him in his glory;
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 58.1-9 a

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

‘Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord ?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil.

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

Psalm 112

1 O praise the Lord. Blessed are they that fear the Lord:
and greatly delight in his commandments.

2 Their children shall be mighty in the land:
an upright race who will be blessed.

3 Riches and plenty shall be in their house:
and their righteousness shall stand for ever.

4 Light arises in darkness for the upright:
gracious and merciful are the righteous.

5 It goes well with those who act generously and lend:
who guide their affairs with justice.

6 Surely they shall never be moved:
the righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not fear bad tidings:
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

8 Their hearts are confident and will not fear:
they will see the downfall of their enemies.

9 They give freely to the poor:
**their righteousness stands for ever,
their head is uplifted in glory.**

10 The wicked shall see it and be angry:
**they shall gnash their teeth and consume away;
and the hope of the wicked shall fail.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2.1-13

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come
proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and
him crucified.

And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.

My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of
wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the
power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a

wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish.

But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written,
'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him'—
these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

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

Gradual Hymn

We sing the praise of him who died [TIS 347]

The Gospel

Matthew 5.13-20

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.

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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.

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

A minister continues

God of light,
you call your people to be salt of the earth and light of the world.
Where our words have been many but our love has been thin,
season us again with the savour of Christ,
that our common life may speak of your mercy
more clearly than any argument.

Lord, in your light
Shine through your Church

We pray for your Church throughout the world,
for all communities gathered this day around word and sacrament.
Bless Jeremy our Archbishop, Cameron our Area Bishop, and all who
bear the weight and the wonder of ordained ministry.
May your whole Church be a city on a hill,
where the poor find welcome,
the wounded hear blessing,
and the weary discover rest in you.

Lord, in your light
Shine through your Church

Give to those in authority a hunger for what is right,
a distaste for easy lies, and a courage that is not for sale.
We remember all journalists, peacemakers, carers, and volunteers,
Whose work goes often unnoticed. May they not lose heart.

Lord, in your light
Shine through your Church

We hold before you
those whose lives this day feel fragile or frayed:
the sick in body, mind, or spirit;
the lonely and forgotten;
those anxious about work, money, or relationships;
those who do not know where to turn.

May your healing be more than a figure of speech,
your comfort more than a wish.
Bring wholeness to the broken,
courage to the fearful,
and companions to those who walk in the dark.

Lord, in your light
Shine through your Church

God of the everyday,
you place us in neighbourhoods and workplaces,
in families and friendships, to be small story of your grace.
May our homes be places
where kindness is practised,
forgiveness is attempted,
and laughter is allowed.
Teach us to notice the people we usually overlook,
and to see in them your image waiting to be honoured.

Lord, in your light
Shine through your Church

We pray especially for all the faithful departed and for those whose
year's mind falls this week.

Grant them, and all your saints,
the light perpetual of your presence,
where every tear is dried
and every joy made complete.

Lord, in your light
Shine through your Church

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.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING FOR BILL & YVONNE ROSS
FOR 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD**

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

In the cross of Christ I glory [TIS 349]

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.

You anointed him as Messiah, the light of the nations, and
revealed him as the hope of all who thirst for righteousness and
peace.

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.

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.

Holy things for holy people.

Broken things for broken people.

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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