

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Christ on the Road to Emmaus – Rembrandt c.1639

St Paul's Church • Ipswich
19 April 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Processional Hymn

How firm a foundation, you people of God [TIS 578]

The Invocation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Greeting

Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Sentence

Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2.38–39

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, 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

O God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 2.14a; 2.36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

Psalm 116.1-4; 116.11-18

¹ I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:

the voice of my supplication;

² Because he inclined his ear to me:

in the day that I called to him.

³ The cords of death encompassed me,
the snares of the grave took hold on me:

I was in anguish and sorrow.

⁴ Then I called upon the name of the Lord:

'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me !'

¹¹ How shall I repay the Lord:

for all his benefits to me?

¹² I will take up the cup of salvation:

and call upon the name of the Lord.

¹³ I will pay my vows to the Lord:

in the presence of all his people.

¹⁴ Grievous in the sight of the Lord:

is the death of his faithful ones.

¹⁵ O Lord, I am your servant,

your servant and the child of your handmaid:

you have unloosed my bonds.

¹⁶ I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:

and call upon the name of the Lord.

¹⁷ I will pay my vows to the Lord:

in the presence of all his people,

¹⁸ In the courts of the house of the Lord:

even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1.13-25

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.

Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance.

Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct;

for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.

You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

For

‘All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

but the word of the Lord endures for ever.’ That word is the good news that was announced to you.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *Glory be to Jesus* [TIS 344]

The Gospel

Luke 24.13-35

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied,

‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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 world, for the City of Ipswich and for the mission of the Church.

A minister continues

God of the road and the meal,
you come alongside your people in ways we seldom expect.
When our hearts are slow to believe
and our hopes seem spent,
kindle again the fire of your presence
and make our eyes open to know you in the breaking of the bread.

Lord, in your mercy,

Walk with your Church.

We pray for your Church throughout the world,
for all who journey together this day in faith and doubt.
Bless Jeremy our Archbishop, Cameron our Regional Bishop,
and all who minister in word and sacrament.
May every congregation become a place
where weary travellers find Christ at their table,
and where stories of grace are told afresh.

Lord, in your mercy,

Walk with your Church.

Open the minds of those who lead the nations
to recognise paths of justice and peace.
Give courage to those who speak the truth,
integrity to those who wield power,
and compassion to those who shape policy and care.
Bless all who work for reconciliation,
that strangers and enemies may yet become companions on the road.

Lord, in your mercy,

Walk with your Church.

Stay close, Lord, to all whose journey is shadowed by sorrow or pain:
to the sick and the exhausted,
the mourning and the afraid,
those who travel without a friend to walk beside them.
In their confusion or grief,
let them hear again the voice that calls them beloved,
and know that you are nearer than they can imagine.

Lord, in your mercy,

Walk with your Church.

God of hearth and table,
bless our homes, our families, and our friendships.
Make our daily meals and shared stories
simple sacraments of your love.
Give us generous hearts and open eyes
to recognise you in the neighbour, the stranger, and the guest.

Lord, in your mercy,

Walk with your Church.

We remember before you
those whom we love but see no longer,
and all whose year's mind falls this week.
Bring them to your eternal home,
where the journey finds its rest
and they see you face to face.

Lord, in your mercy,

Walk with 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**

Risen Christ, you met your disciples on the road and made their hearts burn within them.

Journey with us through all the twists and turns of this life,
and bring us, with all your saints,
to the joy of your kingdom,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **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: *Brother, sister, let me serve you* [TIS 650]

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, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**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."
Great is the mystery of faith:

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.

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

Most glorious Lord of life,
we thank you that you nourish us
in these Easter mysteries.
Fill us with the Spirit of love
and unite us in faith,
that we may witness to the resurrection
and show your glory to all the world. **Amen.**

Notice

Blessing

Almighty God,
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,
and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom,
give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your
eternal inheritance; 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: *Christ the Lord is risen today* [TIS 370]

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