

17th May 2026



*Risen and reigning Christ,
you call us to go into the world with your love.
Give us courage to follow,
grace to serve,
and faith to trust your presence with us always.
Lead us by your Spirit,
that our lives may reflect your hope.
Amen.*

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Ascension can feel like a strange kind of goodbye, as if Jesus steps back just when the story feels most alive. But this is no farewell wrapped in absence. It is a commissioning wrapped in promise.

On that mountain, some worshipped, and some doubted. It is a wonderfully honest detail. Faith and uncertainty standing side by side, and still, Jesus sends them. He does not wait for perfect belief. He entrusts his mission to ordinary hearts. And then comes the quiet thunder of the promise: *"I am with you always."* Not occasionally. Not when we get it right. Always.

So the Ascension is less about Jesus going up, and more about the Church being sent out. Into homes, streets, conversations, and quiet acts of love. Into a world that still longs for hope. We go, not as experts, but as witnesses.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: 'Go and make disciples of all nations,' Jesus commands; 'I am with you always, to the close of the age.' Matthew 28.19–20

Prayer of the Day: O God, whose Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples, and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom: by your Holy Spirit, hold the Church in unity, and keep it faithful to your word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

First Reading Acts 1.1-11

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical Background: Written by Luke the Evangelist, this passage continues the story after the resurrection. Jesus Christ ascends into heaven before his disciples, promising the coming of the Holy Spirit and commissioning them to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Meaning & Relevance Today: The Ascension is not about Jesus leaving, but about his mission expanding. The disciples are no longer spectators; they are participants. Likewise, we are called to carry Christ's presence into the world, trusting that God's work continues through us.

Reflection Question: Where is Christ sending me to be a witness today?

Psalm 47

¹ O clap your hands, all you peoples:
and cry aloud to God with shouts of joy.

² **For the Lord Most High is to be feared:
he is a great king over all the earth.**

³ He cast down peoples under us:
and the nations beneath our feet.

⁴ **He chose us a land for our possession:
that was the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.**

⁵ God has gone up with the sound of rejoicing:
and the Lord to the blast of the horn.

⁶ **O sing praises, sing praises to God:
O sing praises, sing praises to our king.**

⁷ For God is the king of all the earth:
O praise him in a well-wrought psalm.

⁸ **God has become the king of the nations:
he has taken his seat upon his holy throne.**

⁹ The princes of the peoples are gathered together:
with the people of the God of Abraham.

¹⁰ **For the mighty ones of the earth are become the servants of God:
and he is greatly exalted.**

Second Reading from Ephesians 1.15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical Background: In this letter, Paul the Apostle prays for the church, that they may understand the greatness of Christ's power and authority, now exalted above all things.

Meaning & Relevance Today: Christ reigns not in distance, but in relationship with his people. The same power that raised Christ is at work in us. This invites us to live with hope, confidence, and a deeper awareness of God's presence.

Reflection Question: Do I truly live as someone who trusts in Christ's power and hope?

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 28.16-20

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Biblical Background: On a mountain in Galilee, the risen Jesus Christ gives the Great Commission. He sends his disciples to make disciples of all nations, baptising and teaching, with the promise of his abiding presence.

Meaning & Relevance Today: The mission of the Church is clear: to go, to share, to teach, and to live the way of Christ. Yet the heart of this mission is not effort, but assurance: "I am with you always." We are sent, but never alone.

Reflection Question: How am I living out Christ's call in my daily life?

News & Notices

HYMNFEST CANCELLED: The Hymnfest at the Uniting Church scheduled for this afternoon (Sun, 17th May) has been cancelled. The event will be rescheduled in due course.

NEXT SUNDAY (24th) is DAY OF PENTECOST: Please wear something **RED** to church.

GYMPIE WINTER SHELTER: Volunteer training on 23rd & 24th May from 2 to 5 pm (one day only needed) at St Peter's Church. Volunteers needed for, cooking meals, drivers, overnight support shifts, welcoming etc. Training will cover all aspects of the Shelter. Applications to volunteer available by visiting the Gympie Winter Shelter Facebook page.

GYMPIE WINTER SHELTER COMMISSIONING SERVICE: Sunday 31st May at 5.30 pm St Peter's. Please join us as we bless the program and volunteers for this year's outreach starting on 1st June.

FANCY THAT OP SHOP WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP: We're asking for volunteers to help with washing and ironing of clothes. We sort items suitable for re-use and sale but some require a freshen up. If you can help, please contact Maxine on 0419 779 863.

THIS WEEK: Sun: 8.30 am & 5.30 pm Gympie; 9.30 am Rainbow Beach |

Mon 9.30 am Mainly Music | **Tue:** 5.00 pm Meditation | **Wed:** 12.00 noon Service

Sunday's 5.30 pm ZOOM Link: Zoom information is the same each week

Web address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7246788483>

Meeting ID: 724 678 8483 - all welcome to join in person or via ZOOM.

Prayers for those in need

Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Pam Dorman; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Jenny; Marquita, Sammy & Roman; Marnie Richards; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.

How to contribute to our Church financially

Deposits may be made by internet transfer from your bank direct to our Church Bank Account using the following information:

Account Name: Anglican Parish Gympie **BSB:** 704-901 **Acct Number:** 0000 5910

Please use all the four zeros when entering the Acct No..

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Physical & Postal Address: 15 Amy St, Gympie 4570

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Email: gympie@anglicanchurchsq.org.au **Website:** www.anglicangympie.org.au

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