Readings for 2026 Anglicare Sunday

Readings for 25 October 2026:

Deuteronomy 34:1–12
Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17
1 Thessalonians 2:1–13
Matthew 22:34–46

Deuteronomy 34.1-12

1 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, opposite
Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land – from Gilead to Dan, 2 all of Naphtali,
the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean
Sea, 3 the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as
Zoar. 4 Then the Lord said to him, 'This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and
Jacob when I said, "I will give it to your descendants." I have let you see it with your eyes,
but you will not cross over into it.' 5 And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab,
as the Lord had said. 6 He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this
day no one knows where his grave is. 7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he
died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. 8 The Israelites grieved for Moses in
the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. 9 Now
Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on
him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses. 10 Since
then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, 11 who did
all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt – to Pharaoh and to all his
officials and to his whole land. 12 For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed
the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17

1 Lord, you have been our refuge:
from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were born
or the earth and the world were brought to be:
from eternity to eternity you are God.
3 You turn us back into dust:
saying 'Return to dust, O children of Adam.'
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday passing:

or like one watch of the night.
5 You cut them short like a dream:
like the fresh grass of the morning;
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes:
at evening it is withered and dried up.
13 Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?:
take pity on your servants.
14 O satisfy us early with your mercy:
that all our days we may rejoice and sing.
15 Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us:
for the years we have suffered adversity.
16 Show your servants your work:
and let their children see your glory.
17 May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us:
prosper the work of our hands,
O prosper the work of our hands!

1 Thessalonians 2.1-13

1 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. 2 We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. 3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. 11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Matthew 22.34-46

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 'Teacher, which is the greatest

commandment in the Law?' [37] Jesus replied: '"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' [41] While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, [42] 'What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?' 'The son of David,' they replied. [43] He said to them, 'How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him "Lord"? For he says , [44] '"The Lord said to my Lord : 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" [45] If then David calls him "Lord", how can he be his son?' [46] No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

A Reflection on the readings with an Anglicare focus

When Jesus is asked which commandment is the greatest, he answers by joining together love of God and love of neighbour. We are to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. For Jesus, these two forms of love cannot be separated.

This commandment gives Anglicare's ministry its shape. Love of neighbour becomes practical when people are offered food in a crisis, assistance to find safe housing, support after violence, financial counselling, companionship and pathways towards stability. Such care is not an optional addition to Christian faith; it is one of the ways our love for God is made visible.

The neighbour Jesus calls us to love is not an abstract idea. The neighbour is the child whose family has run out of food, the young person leaving care, the person sleeping in a car, the older person experiencing loneliness, and the family rebuilding after violence or crisis. Each person is worthy of dignity, compassion and hope.

The passage then turns to the identity of the Messiah. Jesus asks how the Messiah can be both David's son and David's Lord. The question reminds us that Jesus is more than a teacher offering an admirable ethic: he is Lord. His authority reshapes our priorities, our relationships and our shared life.

Anglicare's work therefore begins not simply in goodwill, but in discipleship. Because Christ is Lord, serving our neighbour becomes part of our worship and obedience. Public funding is essential, but the support of parishes, donors and volunteers enables Anglicare to respond more flexibly and accompany people beyond immediate crisis.

Through prayer, giving, volunteering, advocacy and partnership, the Church embodies both movements of this Gospel: confessing Christ as Lord and loving the neighbour placed before

us. In these practical acts, faith becomes visible and communities are strengthened in dignity, justice and hope.

Liturgy for 2026 Anglicare Sunday

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

We gather before the eternal God, our dwelling place in every generation, who led Moses faithfully to the edge of the promised land and whose steadfast love establishes the work of human hands. We give thanks for the ministry of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & the ACT, and hear again Christ's call to love God with heart, soul and mind, and our neighbour as ourselves. Following the example of Paul, who shared not only the gospel but his own life, let us put Christ's love into action with courage, gentleness and integrity.

Let us pray:

God, our dwelling place in every generation:
Satisfy us with your steadfast love, and establish the work of our hands.

Christ, who commands us to love our neighbour as ourselves:
Stir us to put love into action, honouring the dignity of every person.

Christ who touched the leper:
Stir us, to put love into action that we might reach out to the lonely and the broken.

Christ who overturned the money-changers' tables:
Stir us, to put love into action that we might stand against injustice.

Christ who offered living water:
Stir us, to put love into action that we might share the precious gift of faith.

Collect:

Eternal God, our dwelling place in every generation,
you call us to love you with all our heart, soul and mind,
and to love our neighbour as ourselves.
Give us the gentleness and courage of those who
share not only the gospel but their own lives.
We give thanks for the ministry of Anglicare,
through which compassion, justice and hope take practical form.
Teach us to number our days, satisfy us with your steadfast love,
and establish the work of our hands;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.

A Justice and Peace Commitment for churches in Anti-Poverty Week
The Gospel compels us to seek peace founded on Christ's justice and that costly reconciliation is at its heart; that is Peace with God and Peace with each other: that work for justice, peace and an equitable society is a matter of urgency; that God has given us partnership as stewards of creation and that we have a responsibility to live in a right relationship with the whole of God's creation; that, handled with integrity, creation can provide for the needs of all, but not for the greed which leads to injustice and inequality, and endangers life on earth; that everyone should have the quality and dignity of a full life that requires adequate physical, social and political opportunity, without the oppression of poverty, injustice and fear; that social and political action leading to justice for all people and encouraged by prayer and discussion, is a vital work of the Church at all levels; We pray and act towards this Love in Action, this day.

Confession and Absolution:

Lord Jesus, you command us to love God with all that we are.
When our hearts have been divided and our worship has not shaped our lives:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you command us to love our neighbour as ourselves.
When we have protected our comfort and passed by another's need:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in you we are called to live in unity and peace.
When we have recognised injustice and failed to speak out.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution:

The Scriptures reminds us that we serve
a God of mercy and forgiveness.
May you know God's forgiveness in your lives,
and go forward to be bearers of forgiveness in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessory Prayers:

Let us pray to the eternal God, our dwelling place in every generation, whose steadfast love meets us in our frailty and whose command is fulfilled in love of God and neighbour.

Faithful God, you entrusted Moses with leadership, Paul with the gospel, and the Church with the ministry of Christ. Give your people humility in service, courage in witness and love without pretence.
We pray for Church throughout the world and in our place…
Bless us with wisdom and grace to do our work well.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the pioneers and benefactors of Anglicare
who began the work that continues today.
Make us all faithful in keeping their vision alive.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the skills and service of Anglicare Board members,
praying for them and their Chair Mark Brandon-Baker.
Bless them with insight and energy as they work together.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We pray for the CEO Trevor Ament and give thanks for the dedication and compassion
of Anglicare staff as they work closely with clients.
Bless them with fairness, resilience and love.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for all volunteers who contribute so richly to the work of Anglicare, and for the time, skills and care they offer.
Bless them with strength and refreshment in their labours.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We pray for the clients of Anglicare and especially those who are most vulnerable and most in need.
We give thanks for everything that is received and learnt from them.
Bless us all with grace that we may see Christ's face in all your children.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the contribution parishes make to the life and work of Anglicare, in addressing the needs and hopes of local communities.

Strengthen these relationships and bless them with a common sense of your love for all people.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for Anglicare partners in government and community
who shape policy and direct resources, particularly as funding is so crucial and limited.
Bless them with understanding, integrity, inclusiveness, and justice.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for others who support the work of Anglicare,
financial donors, those who pray,
and for their desire to reach out in loving service.
Bless them with empathy, courage and passion.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We make our prayer through the one who came among us
as the friend and Saviour of sinners high and low alike,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

A blessing on you who are poor,
Yours is the kingdom of God.
A blessing on you who mourn,
You shall be comforted.
A blessing on you who hunger for justice,
You shall be satisfied
A blessing on you who make peace,
You shall be called children of God.
A blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of right,
Yours is the kingdom of Heaven. Amen

Greeting of Peace:

Blessed are those who make peace, they shall be called children of God.
We meet in God's name and share God's peace.

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

Offertory Prayer:

Eternal God, receive these gifts as signs of our love for you and our neighbour. Establish the work of our hands, and use what we offer to strengthen the vulnerable, comfort the weary and proclaim the gospel with gentleness and integrity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Preface:

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.

I can shut that down Doesn't sleep Eating a face Okay so that's what I still need to add Readings

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
[Blessed is he/the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.]

Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful God, you have fed us at the table of Christ, David's Son and David's Lord. Satisfy us with your steadfast love and send us to love you with all that we are and our neighbours as ourselves. Make us gentle in service, courageous in witness and generous in sharing our lives. As we celebrate the ministry of Anglicare, establish the work of our hands and make your compassion visible in [local community name]; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anglicare Prayer for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT:

God grant us the compassion to care deeply for others; the wisdom to discern how best to help; the energy to transform emotion into action, and the joy of wholehearted, loving service. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Anglicare Australia Prayer:

God of Life Giving Creation,
You call us to act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with you.
We pray for the member organisations of Anglicare Australia
working across this vast and ancient land.
Enable us as we strive to meet human need through loving service
and to build communities of resilience, hope and justice.
Encourage us to work in mutual partnership to effect positive change.
Empower the people we serve to reach their full potential,
especially those who experience disadvantage and injustice.
Guide us in our advocacy for social justice
and strengthen our determination to respond with compassion.
Remind us to care for ourselves and each other
as we face the challenges of our work,
and as we seek reconciliation, healing and community transformation.
All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
our servant leader and friend.
Amen.

Intercessory Prayer for those who are suffering and vulnerable

Lord Jesus with grateful hearts we thank you for hearing us when we pray, it is such a privilege to come to your throne of Mercy & Grace. We want to ask you to provide the daily bread needed by those who are suffering hunger today. Lord, restore those who experience malnutrition and its impact on their health because of unjust circumstances around them. We want to ask you for those who have no roof over their head. We want you to come alongside those whose homes are filled with aggression and unrest. We ask your peace would prevail in the broken lives of people we know. Lord we ask you to awaken us afresh to fair and just stewardship of the resources we have for the sake of your love and care for this world. Amen

Final Blessing:

(A Franciscan Benediction adaptation)

May God bless you with discomfort:
At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships
so that you may live a life of depth.

May God bless you with anger:
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people

so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears:
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and violence,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness:
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
and bring justice and kindness to all.

May God bless us with delight:
At our diversity, in the richness of the cultures of our ancient land,
so that we may all dance the spirit of our dreaming
expecting to be surprised at the beauty of the other.