

Preparing for Worship Today

- Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!
- Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those who can't join us physically today.
- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional *(TIS 132 v.4)*

If you are able, please stand when the cantor sings the first line, and sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space:

***Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
all your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.***

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

The LORD comes to restore the fortunes of his people;

let us rejoice and be glad. *(Psalm 14.7)*

Prayer of invocation

Hymn *Creator of the stars of light* [*'Conditor'*]

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Saviour, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendour bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

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The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

1 Timothy 1.12-17 *The grace of our Lord overflowed for me*

Luke 15.1-10 *Lost and found*

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

LITBIT: The preacher needs to articulate the awful truth of human need, a need that many of the hearers may already know but for which they may have no words. The words of the sermon need to include the hearers together with all the outsiders and the sinners, using the terms of the texts as names for our sin and death and sorrow. There will be no insiders here; all of us need a word to say the truth about our common lot and all of us need a word in order to begin to believe again.

GORDON LATHROP

A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching

Prayer of Confession including Psalm 51.1-10 *Create in me a clean heart*

(Read responsively)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Text © NRSV

Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn 578 How firm a foundation

The Peace

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

Affirmation of Faith: the Apostles' Creed

***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 again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.*

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 403 Come, Holy Spirit, Lord of grace

'...knit our hearts in one...'

(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)

The Great Prayer of 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.

(The prayer continues...)

(Sung, as at hymn 761)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

(The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

(The people sit)

The Breaking of the Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God....

(Sung, as at hymn 766)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

...Let us receive what we are,
let us become what we receive
The body of Christ

The Communion

The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

After the invitation, and commencing from the front rows, please come forward in single file to the table, where you will be offered the bread at one point and the wine (in communion glasses only) at a second point. The wine has been prepared with as much COVID-19 precaution as practicable, and the celebrant and wine-server have sanitised their hands prior to the distribution. The common cup will only be used by the celebrant

If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.

Prayers of the People

(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)

Offering

Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 209 And can it be

'...for all Adam's helpless race...'

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

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