

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!
- There are a couple of changes in service order to mark the shift into the season of Easter.
- Today's psalm will be sung responsorially in the congregation: each side of the centre aisle singing alternative lines. Read through the psalm before we get there, to familiarise yourself with its rhythm.



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude O de Lassus, *Conserva me, Domine* [Psalm 16]

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 390, selected verse)

We stand to sing after the cantor introduces the refrain, and the Scriptures are brought in the worship space:

Refrain

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
he is the king of creation.

Refrain

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Call to Worship

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is risen, indeed!

We keep the Lord always before us;
***because God is at our right hand,
we shall not be moved.***

For he does not give us up to the grave,
nor lets his faithful ones see the pit.

He shows us the path of life,
***and in his presence
there is fullness of joy.***

(ex. Psalm 16)

Come, let us worship the Lord.

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 361 The day of resurrection

1. The day of resurrection!
earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God:
from death to life eternal,
from earth up to the sky,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his greeting
may hear, so calm and strong,
his own 'All hail' and, hearing,
may raise the victors' song.

3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful
and earth her song repeat,
the whole world shout in triumph
her living Lord to greet;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.

*John of Damascus c.675–749
tr. John Mason Neale 1818–66 alt.
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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.

Acts 2.14a,22-23 *This Jesus, God raised up*

Psalm 16 *I bless the LORD who gives me counsel* PCS p.344, no.6

The REFRAIN is sung before and after the whole psalm.

The psalm text will then be sung responsorially to the TONE below: the first line is sung by the 'half' of the congregation closest to the doors by which you entered the hall, the second bold-italic line by the other side.

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson

God is our ref - uge; God is our strength.

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- ¹Protect | me, O God,
for in you | I take refuge.
- ²I say to the LORD, "You | are my Lord;
I have no good a- | -part from you."
- ³As for the holy ones in the land, they | are the noble,
in whom is all | my delight.
- ⁴Those who choose another god multi- | -ply their sorrows;
***their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names u- | -pon my lips.***
- ⁵The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;
you | hold my lot.
- ⁶The boundary lines have fallen for me in | pleasant places;
I have a | goodly heritage.
- ⁷I bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
in the night also my | heart in-structs me.
- ⁸I keep the LORD al- | -ways before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall | not be moved.
- ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my | soul rejoices;
my body also | rests secure.
- ¹⁰For you do not give me | up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one | see the Pit.
- ¹¹You show me the | path of life.
***In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for | evermore.***

*We stand for the gospel reading and
join with the cantor in the Alleluia after the organ intro:*

REFRAIN

Hal H. Hopson



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

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Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.
(John 20:29 NRSV)

*Sung: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

John 20.19-31 *He showed them his hands and his side...*

This is the gospel of the Lord!
*Sung: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

The Preaching of the Word

*The sermon text will normally be available
after worship and online*

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

Prayer of Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

LITBIT: Whether it be the preaching of the gospel or “Hello”, a successful event of the word is an occasion on and in which a transforming vision of the future opens up, as the realistically entertainable future of the ones who are already there to be addressed, defined by all that has happened to them and to their world. Therefore for Christians “the word” is the word of forgiveness, which opens a future that is ours no matter what the past may have been.

ROBERT JENSON

(Please stand if you are able)

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:

Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology



The Peace

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

Affirmation of Faith: We are a pilgrim people

Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord
to the glory of God the Father.
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things,
the beginning of a new creation.***

***We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things
which he will bring.***

***We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
and we have the gift of the Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.***

***We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
bearing witness to that unity
which is both Christ's gift and his will.***

***We affirm that every member of the Church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.***

Prayers of the People

The Visible Word: Eucharist

LITBIT: The Eucharist demonstrates that material reality can become charged with Jesus' life, and so proclaimed hope for the whole world of matter. The material, habitually used as a means of exclusion, of violence, can become a means of communication. Matter as hoarded or dominated or exploited speaks of the distortion and ultimate severance of relationship, and as such can only be a sign of death...

The matter of the Eucharist, carrying the presence of the risen Jesus, can only be a sign of life, of triumph over the death of exclusion and isolation

ROWAN WILLIAMS

Hymn 394 Christ is risen!

1. Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown:
healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.
2. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.
3. Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
'Christ is risen! Get you gone!'
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!

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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...)



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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!

Hosanna in the highest!

(The prayer continues...)



Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

(The prayer continues...)



Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r

are yours forever and ever,

are yours forever and ever.

(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

...Holy things for a people made holy;

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Psalms 34:8

(Sung:) Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,

alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. [TIS 390]

...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.

GATHERING: *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

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 392 At the dawning of salvation

*'...Lead us on, your great array,
saints and sinners celebrating
your triumphant love today...'*

1. At the dawning of salvation;
in the morning of the world,
Christ is raised, a living banner
by the love of God unfurled,
Through the daylight, through the darkness,
Christ leads on his great array;
all the saints and all the sinners
he has gathered on his way.

2. He is risen in the morning,
he is risen from the dead;
he is laughter after sadness,
he is light when night has fled.
He has suffered, he has triumphed,
life is his alone to give:
as he gave it once he gives it
evermore, that we may live.
3. For the glory of salvation
in the dawn of Easter day
we will praise you, loving Father;
we rejoice to sing and pray
with the Son and with the Spirit.
Lead us on, your great array,
saints and sinners celebrating
your triumphant love today.

Jock Curle

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude D Buxtehude, *Toccata BuxWV 165*

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

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<http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/>