



The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
Sunday 15B  
July 14, 2024

## *Preparing for Worship Today*

- Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!
- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- If you get here early enough, **please read through the text of today's readings prior to our hearing them.** The text can be found at the end of the order of service. We usually have a brief time of conversation about the readings before hearing them, and before the sermon – all to make our hearing a little sharper!
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!



## **A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**

**Prelude** GG Nivers, *Recit de Cromhorne*

### *The Gathering of the People of God*

#### **Processional**

*If you are able, please stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.*

#### **Call to Worship**

The Lord be with you!

***And also with you!***

Lift up your heads, O gates!

**and be lifted up, O ancient doors!**

that the King of glory may come in.

***that the King of glory may come in.***

*Psalm 24.9*

#### **Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** Father, we praise you (Tune 246)

1. Father, we praise you, now the night is over,  
active and watchful, stand we all before you;  
singing we offer prayer and meditation:  
thus we adore you.

2. Monarch of all things, fit us for thy mansions;  
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;  
bring us to heaven, where your saints united  
joy without ending.

3. All holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,  
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;  
yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding  
through all creation.

Attrib: Gregory the Great; Tr: Percy Dearmer

### With the Children

### *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.**

Ephesians 2:11-22 *For he is our peace*

Psalm 85:8-13 *Righteousness and peace will kiss*

REFRAIN: Organ and cantor, then all together (sung also at the end).  
The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson

Praise \_ the Lord. Praise \_ the  
Lord. Praise \_ the name of the Lord. \_

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#### TONE

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
**for he will speak peace | to his people,**

to his faithful,  
**to those who turn to him | in their hearts.**

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
**that his glory may dwell | in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
**righteousness and peace will | kiss each other.**

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
**and righteousness will look down | from the sky.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will give what is good,  
**and our land will | yield its increase.**

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him,  
**and will make a path | for his steps.**

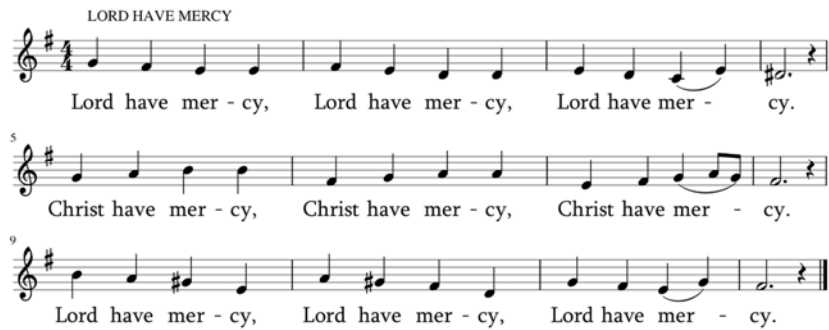
*There is no written text available of  
today's sermon; the video/audio is  
available on YouTube*

#### The Preaching of the Word

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

#### Prayer of Confession

LORD HAVE MERCY



Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.  
 Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.  
 Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

**Lord, have mercy; (3x)**  
**Christ, have mercy; (3x)**  
**Lord, have mercy. (3x)**

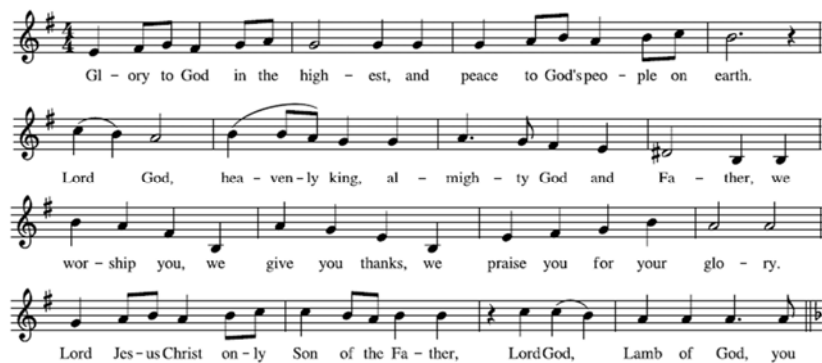
**Declaration of Forgiveness**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

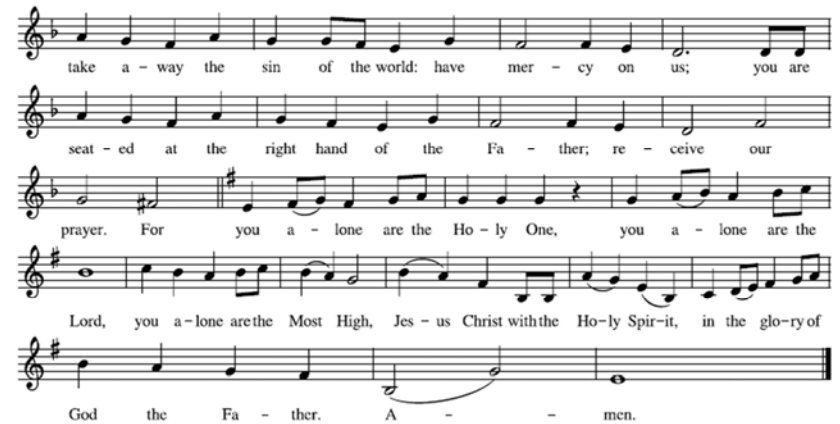
...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:  
 Your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Doxology**



Gl - ory to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.  
 Lord God, hea - ven - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we  
 wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
 Lord Jes - us Christ on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are  
 seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our  
 prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the  
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Jes - us Christ with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - - - men.

**The Peace**

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

**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.***

## Prayers of the People

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

### *The Visible Word: Eucharist*

## Hymn 509 Come now, everlasting Spirit

*(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.

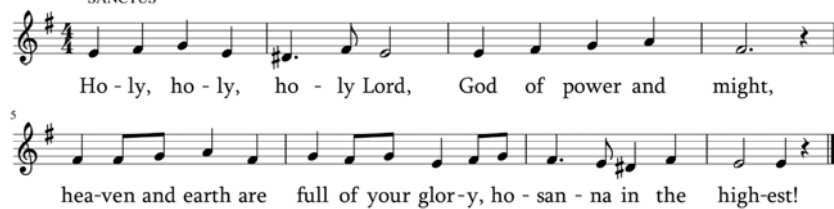
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**


*(The prayer continues...)*

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
5 hea - ven and earth are full of your glor - y, ho - san - na in the high - est!

BENEDICTUS



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho -  
4 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

**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, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

*(The prayer continues...)*

CHRIST HAS DIED



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain

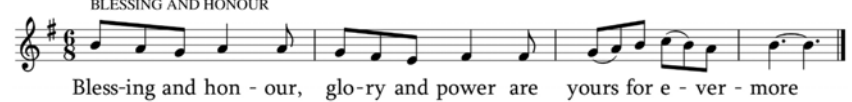
**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*(The prayer continues...)*

BLESSING AND HONOUR



Bless - ing and hon - our, glo - ry and power are yours for e - ver - more

**Blessing and honour, glory and power**

**are yours forever more.**

## 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)*

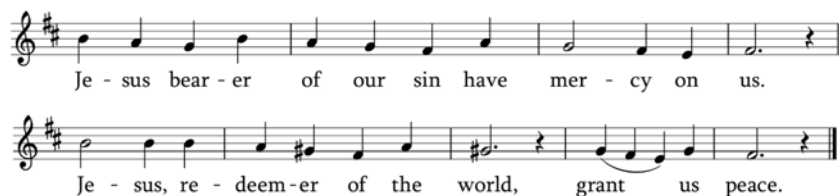
## The Breaking of the Bread

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

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus bear - er of our sin have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world, grant us peace.

***Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
 Jesus, bearer of our sin, have mercy on us.  
 Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
 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.*

**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.*

*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.*

## Offering

*(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)*

*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 giftis.*

## Notices

## *The Sending Forth of the People of God*

**Hymn** 548 (tune 332) Eternal light, shine in my heart

**Word of Mission and Blessing**

**Postlude** A van Noordt, *Fantasie [in D]*

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

Our email address is:

[enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)

Our website is:

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

## TODAY'S READINGS

*Read the following texts-for-the-day before the service and be ready for a brief conversation about them before we hear them read! When it comes to the texts being read for us, try to avoid the temptation to read them again here along with the lector, and simply listen!*

### Ephesians 2.11-22

<sup>11</sup> So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup> He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup> So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup> for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

### Psalms 85.13-22

See the text above in the service order

- What is God's word of peace?
- What is the way to God's peace? Is there a "way"?

What does contemporary alienation and estrangement have to do with the separation in the text?

How does Christ's "flesh" break down this wall?

What does it mean that this "holy temple" is made of flesh and blood, and not wood and brick?

Where is the "cornerstone" placed in such a temple?

### PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

#### Daniel Thambyrajah (D. T.) Niles, faithful servant



Daniel Thambyrajah Niles (affectionately known as "D.T.") was a gifted Ceylonese (Sri Lankan) Methodist minister who became internationally famous as an ecumenical leader, prolific author and public speaker. He delivered the keynote address at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Amsterdam in 1948 and also spoke at the Second Assembly held at

Evanston (USA) in 1954 and the Fourth in Uppsala, Sweden, in 1968. Niles was a giant of the ecumenical movement, holding high offices in the World Council, the National Christian Council of Ceylon and the East Asian Christian Conference (EACC). Though an ecumenist of global significance, he firmly believed that those involved in ecumenical work should maintain firm roots in the local church. At the time of his death when he was both a President of the WCC and the Chairman of EACC, he was also the Superintendent Minister of St Peter's Methodist Church (Jaffna) and Principal of Jaffna Central College.

Niles is probably best known today for the large number of hymns that he wrote, including the popular, "The great love of God is revealed in the Son" and "Father in heaven, grant to your children", both of which are included in the Australian Hymn Book and Together in Song. Perhaps it is less well known that he was the author of many popular aphorisms: "Evangelism is witness. It is one beggar telling another beggar where to get food." And then there is his startling challenge to complacent congregations: "The answer to the problems of our world is the answer that Jesus Christ provided, which is the Church."

Niles lived simply and always considered his primary calling to be that of an evangelist and preacher—a witness to the living Christ as saviour. He challenged those who doubted that evangelism by the spoken word could still find a response and insisted that those who minister must judge their success not by how much service they have rendered but by how many have been led to God.

[contd...]

#### PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

##### Daniel Thambyrajah (D. T.) Niles, faithful servant [...contd]

Niles He was explicitly Christocentric in faith and practice, insisting that those who speak about Jesus must learn to keep quiet about themselves. "The object of evangelism is conversion", Niles declared, "conversion to Christ and personal discipleship to him." Also involved in Niles' understanding of conversion, was conversion to the Christian community and conversion to Christian ideas and ideals. The normal order of mission priorities, he explained, was threefold: a welcome to community, an invitation to discipleship and a transformation of values. "The pilgrimage of the individual Christian", he insisted, "is held within and nurtured by the pilgrimage of the Christian community." It is not surprising, therefore, that Niles quoted approvingly Karl Barth's familiar pronouncement, "One cannot hold the Christian faith without holding it in the church and with the church."

In one of Niles's first books which he titled, *Whose I Am and Whom I Serve* (1939) he wrote "One of the primary needs of the Church today is to rediscover this mood [of hopefulness], not merely to rediscover our faith as such, but to re-discover it in its original mood of exhilaration, of challenge and high adventure, of expectant hope and triumphant deed." Niles lived such a life of joyous commitment. In one of the last sentences he penned before his death in his memoir, *The Testament of Faith* (1972), Niles expressed this fundamental characteristic of the Christian life, "I rejoice in the Holy Spirit, His power, His assurance, His guarantees, His teachings, His fellowship, His guidance and His mission; we live by His gifts." Perhaps the real measure of the man was his humility. It is best expressed in his book, *Preaching the Gospel of the Resurrection* (1953), "The work we do, during our life on earth is always that which somebody else has done. We begin where they have left off...There is a placard with the sign, 'Move on' which hangs over all our work."

William W. Emilsen

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Online discussion groups From Wed Aug 7 and Fri Aug 9 [NEW](#)  
Church Council (ordinary meeting) August 6

## NOTICES

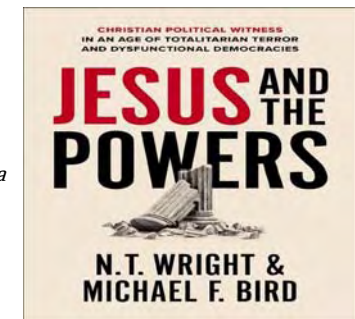
### ONLINE STUDY GROUPS

August-September 2024

From Wed Aug 7 (7.45pm)  
and Fri Aug 9 (1.30pm) for 8 weeks

Register your interest and obtain the studies link via  
[www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)

**About this book:** *Part political theology, part biblical overview, and part church history, this book argues that building for Jesus's kingdom requires confronting empire in all its forms. This approach should orient Christians toward a form of political engagement that contributes to free democratic societies and vigorously opposes political schemes based on autocracy and nationalism. Throughout, Wright and Bird reflect on the relevance of this kingdom-oriented approach to current events, including the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the China-Taiwan tension, political turmoil in the USA, UK, and Australia, and the problem of Christian nationalism.*



**People to commemorate this week**

Daniel Thambyrajah (D. T.) Niles, faithful servant

**Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

Djibouti, Somalia

**LECTIONARY READINGS 21 JULY 2024**

2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 2:11-22

Congregation of Mark the Evangelist, North Melbourne

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As a Parish Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia,  
The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist is responsible for Hotham Mission.

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