

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Epiphany 5C | February 9 2025

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all thing. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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.

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude J Speth, *Toccata Prima*

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.

Come, give thanks to the LORD, with all your heart;
**before the gods we
sing praise to the LORD.**

(ex Psalm 138.1,2)

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 143 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

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.

1 Corinthians 13 *I will show you a better way*

Psalm 138 *Though I walk in the midst of trouble (PCS Tone 6 p.343)*

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

REFRAIN

Hal H. Hopson



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

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TONE

¹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing | praise to you.

²I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,
 because of your love and faithfulness;
**for you have glorified your name and your word ab- | -ove all
 things.**

³In the day that I called to you, you answered me;
you put new strength | in my soul.

⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words | of your mouth.

⁵They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory | of the Lord.

⁶Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;
as for the proud, he regards them | from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me;
**you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
 your right | hand will save me.**

⁸The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;
**your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the
 work | of your hands.**

REFRAIN

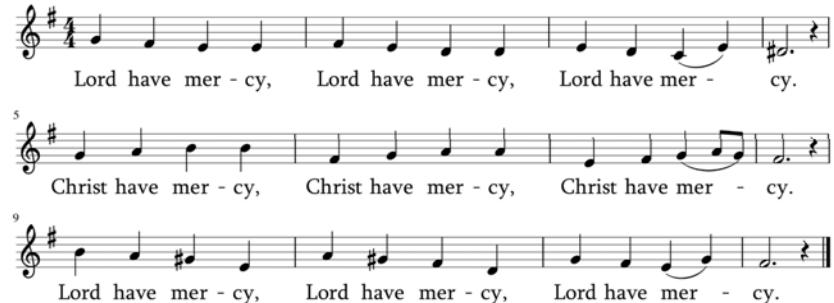
Hal H. Hopson

Luke 5:1-11 *They left their nets and followed him*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**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**

LORD HAVE MERCY

**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 via Hymn 217(i) Love divine, all loves excelling****The Peace**

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

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 145 The king of love my shepherd is

(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.

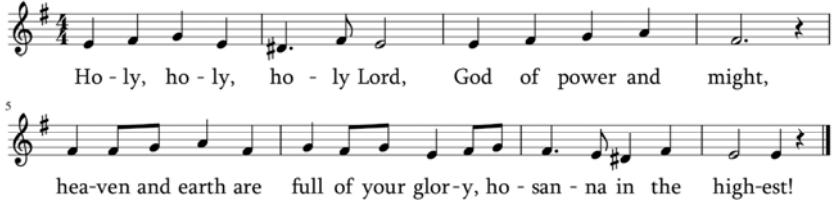
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

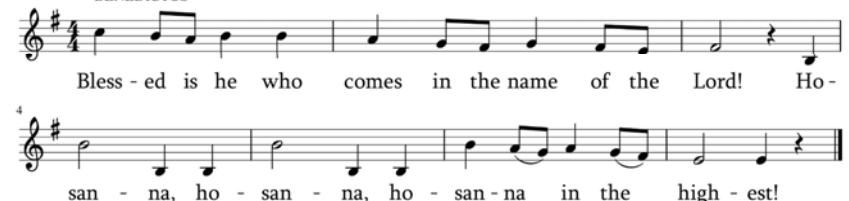
(The prayer continues...)

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!

(The prayer continues...)

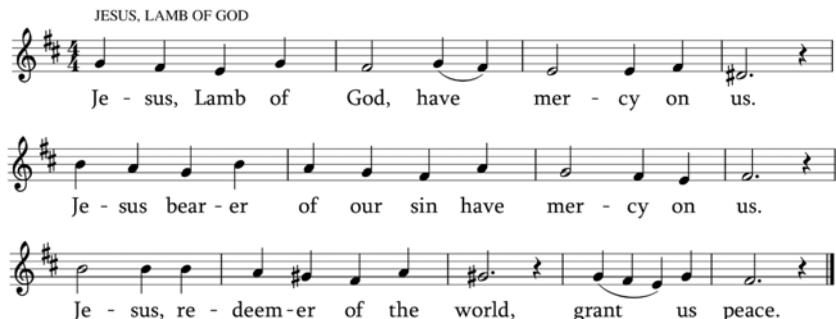
The Lord's Prayer

*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

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.

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 gifts.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 628 In faith and hope and love

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude JG Walther, *Herr Christ, der einig gottes Sohn*

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

Our email address is:

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Our website is:

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

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

Italy

Italy was the land of the Roman empire and the early Church of Rome. As of the 5th century, the Barbarian invasions resulted in the establishment of several kingdoms. In the Middle Ages city-states were formed, like Venice, that made Italy a powerful force, dominating much of the Mediterranean Sea region. Italian cities were at the centre of the European Renaissance. Italy became a nation-state in 1861 when it was united in a monarchy. During World War II, under the fascist dictator Mussolini, Italy allied with Nazi Germany. A democratic republic replaced the monarchy in 1946, and industrialization set in, especially in the north. The south is less advanced economically. Italy is a founding member of the European Union. Its culture, society and political life have been greatly influenced by the Catholic Church, which was the state church until 1984. The vast majority of Christians in Italy are Catholic. The Waldensians, a small, pre-Reformation church, have been present in the northern part of the country since the 13th century, in spite of severe persecution. Other small Protestant churches were established in the 19th century. They have come together in the Protestant Federation. In the 20th century several large Pentecostal churches emerged, and the Charismatic movement developed in the Catholic Church. In 2000 it was estimated that 6 percent of the Italian Christians were Evangelical/Pentecostal/Charismatic. Immigration from Africa and Asia has brought into being new Christian migrant communities.

Malta

Malta has been host to many different civilizations, including the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Italians, French and British. It received self-rule and a constitution from the British in 1921, but this was revoked during the Second World War, and it was not until 1964 that Malta achieved independence. In 1974 the constitution was revised and the government reorganized as a parliamentary republic. During the Crusades, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, gave Malta the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, who remained in control of the island until the nineteenth century, when it was colonized by Britain. Virtually all citizens of Malta are baptized into the Roman Catholic Church, which is the state church and dominates the social and cultural life of the island. The Roman Catholic Church also owns over one-sixth of all property on the island, and publishes its daily newspaper. In addition, it is influential in education and health care. There are no WCC member churches based in this country.

NOTICES

We welcome back today Daniel Broadstock as our preaching; Daniel is a member of the Brunswick UCA Congregation.

LEADING THE INTERCESSIONS IN WORSHIP WORKSHOP, SUNDAY FEB 16

NEXT SUNDAY Feb 16 there will be a workshop on leading the intercessions in worship, following morning tea; rostered intercessors particular encouraged to attend, but all welcome!

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre



The Wesley Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Policy is hosting a series of 'Conversations That Matter'—lunchtime conversations with experts on the big questions facing society, from housing to politics to bioethics and AI. 'Conversations That Matter' are held in Wesley Church, 130 Lonsdale St, on the third Thursday of the month from 12.30 – 1.20pm. BYO lunch or coffee.

FEBRUARY 20 CONVERSATION: How do we solve the housing crisis? At the start of an election year in which housing is front of mind for many voters, join us for a free lunchtime conversation about the ethics, economics, and politics of housing, with Brendan Coates from the Grattan Institute, and Kristie Looney from Uniting Vic.Tas.

Event Link - <https://www.facebook.com/share/18VcmV1RNe/>

LENTEN STUDIES FOR 2025

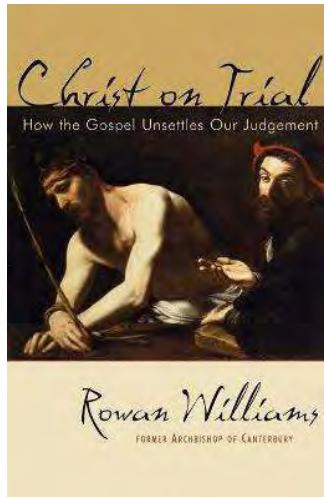
Our Lenten Studies for 2025 will use Rowan Williams' *Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles our Judgement*.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

In this book the former Archbishop of Canterbury looks in depth at the trial of Jesus, using it to teach readers how to face the challenges of life in today's trying times.

Bringing the biblical accounts of Jesus' trial vividly to life, Rowan Williams highlights what can be learned about Jesus from each of the four Gospel portraits. These discussions are followed by a reflection on Christian martyrdom and a meditation on tyranny, freedom, and truth. Williams draws not only from the Bible but also from fiction, drama, and current events, pointing out ways in which society today continues to put Christ on trial. Even more, he argues that all Christians stand with Jesus before a watching world. Though we may not be directly confronted with death, we are nevertheless called daily to respond to the falsehood of such lures as power, influence, and prestige.

Two online (Zoom) groups are presently planned from Wednesday March 5 (7.45pm) and Friday March 7 (1.30PM), for six weeks (one week per chapter).



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Worship on praying the intercessions in worship	Sun Feb 16 NEW
Wesley Centre: Conversations that Matter	Thu Feb 20, 12:30pm@Wesley UC
Hotham Mission Board	Fri Feb 21, 3.00pm CTM NEW
Hymn-learning session after worship	Sun Mar 2
Church Council	Tue Mar 4, 730pm (online)
Lenten Studies (see website for details)	Weekly from March Wed 5/Fri 7
Quarterly Conversation	Fri April 4 11.00am NEW

People to commemorate this week

Friedrich Schleiermacher, Christian thinker

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City

Lectionary Readings | 16 February 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

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www.hothammission.org.au

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