

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
Epiphany 6C | February 16 2025

of  
blessing  
and  
woe

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-J 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!***

Come, worship the LORD

***let all the ends of the earth  
give God praise.***

*cf. Psalm 67.7*

#### **Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** 474 Here in this place

#### **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.***

Jeremiah 17:5-10 *I the LORD test the mind and search the heart*

Psalm 1 *Like trees by streams of water*

*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 stained glass windows, the second bold-italic line by the other side*

**REFRAIN**

Hal H. Hopson

God is our ref - uge; God is our strength.  
© 1988 Hope Publishing Company

**TONE**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those who do not follow the advice | of the wicked,  
**or take the path that sinners tread,**  
**or sit in the | seat of scoffers;**

<sup>2</sup> but their delight is in the law | of the LORD,  
**and on his law they meditate | day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by | streams of water,  
**which yield their fruit | in its season;**  
...their leaves | do not wither.  
**In all that they | do, they prosper.**

<sup>4</sup> The wicked | are not so,  
**but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand | in the judgement,  
**nor sinners in the congregation | of the righteous;**

<sup>6</sup> for the LORD watches over the way | of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked | will perish.** (NRSV)

**REFRAIN**

Luke 6:17-26 *Blessings and woes*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Preaching of the Word**

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

*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.

**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'speo - 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: Euof charist*

#### **Hymn 34 O Lord, you are my God, for you I long**

*(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,  
 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 -  
 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

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.

...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** 392 At the dawning of salvation

**Word of Mission and Blessing**

**Postlude** J-J Nivers, *Echo & Les deux choeurs*

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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/>

## The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

[www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle)

### Austria

Austria was once the centre of the Austro-Hungarian empire. After World War I it became a federal republic, which was annexed by Nazi Germany in 1938. In the period following World War II, Austria developed gradually into a prosperous country with a healthy economy and a relatively secure social system. It joined the European Union in 1995. Because of its neutrality and its geographical position, Austria has often been a bridge-builder between East and West, politically and culturally. The churches participate also in this mediating role. The main religious group in Austria is the Roman Catholic Church. The Protestant churches (Lutheran, Reformed, Methodist and Baptist) are a minority of about 6 percent of the population. The Methodist Church is part of the United Methodist Church and thus also of the WCC. There is an Old-Catholic Church and also a sizeable Orthodox minority, among which the Greek Orthodox Church is the oldest, and the Serbian Orthodox Church the largest group. Ecumenical partnership has been common practice for decades. The churches work together in the Ecumenical Council of Churches, regardless of their size. The Roman Catholic Church has been a full member of the council since 1994. Good interfaith relationships exist with the Jewish and Muslim communities. The official recognition of Islam by the state has helped to create a climate of mutual understanding. There is an Evangelical Alliance of Austria, which is affiliated with the WEA.

### Switzerland

Christians in Switzerland are split more or less evenly between the Catholic Church, which is the largest single church, and the Protestant Federation, which groups the Reformed churches of the cantons, and a few other churches. The Methodists are part of the United Methodist Church. Through immigration, Orthodox congregations have come into being, belonging for example to the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and others. The Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox and the Old-Catholics come together in a Council of Christian Churches. There are various lively Pentecostal and Evangelical churches, and the Evangelical Alliance of Switzerland is affiliated with the WEA.

## NOTICES

### LEADING THE INTERCESSIONS IN WORSHIP WORKSHOP, TODAY, FEB 16

There will be a workshop TODAY 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/>

### DUELLING HARPSICHORDS, 1ST APRIL 7.30PM HANSON DYER HALL, IAN POTTER SOUTHBANK

Join Donald and his harpsichord student in a fun-filled romp of music for two harpsichords, including Scarlatti, Bach and Armand-Louis Couperin. Entrance is free but be sure to book at <https://events.humanitix.com/hanson-dyer-hall-dueling-harpsichords/tickets>

## LENTEN STUDIES FOR 2025

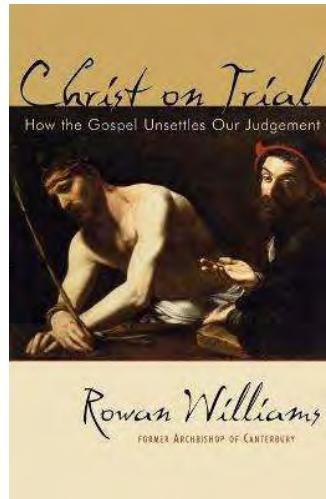
Our Lenten Studies for 2025 will use Rowan Williams' *Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles our Judgement*.

### 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

Wesley Centre: Conversations that Matter

Hotham Mission Board

Hymn-learning session after worship

Church Council

Ash Wednesday Service @ CTM chapel

Lenten Studies (see website for details)

**TODAY** after morning tea

Thu Feb 20, 12:30pm@Wesley UC

Fri Feb 21, 3.00pm CTM

Sun Mar 2

Tue Mar 4, 730pm (online)

Wed Mar 5 1.15pm **NEW**

Weekly from March Wed 5/Fri 7

## People to commemorate this week

Martin Luther, reformer of the Church

### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

### Lectionary Readings | 23 February 2025

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Cor 15:35-38 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

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

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[www.hothammission.org.au](http://www.hothammission.org.au)

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