

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
Epiphany 7C | February 23 2025

# What to do?

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 Terza*

### *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!***

Take delight in the Lord,  
who satisfies the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord  
and trust in God's actions.

Be still before the Lord  
and wait patiently for God.

**The Lord is our salvation  
and our refuge in times of trouble.**

*Ps. 37:4-5, 7, 39*

Come, let us worship the Lord...

#### **Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** 152 Joyful, joyful, we adore you

#### **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.***

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 *I am Joseph*

**Psalm 37:1-11 Trust in the Lord and be doing good**

[PCS tone 6]

REFRAIN: Organ, 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**



<sup>1</sup> Fret not because of evildoers,  
**be not jealous of those | who do wrong.**

<sup>2</sup> For they shall soon wither like grass  
**and like the green | herb fade away.**

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the Lord and be doing good,  
**dwell in the land and be nour-|-ished with truth.**

<sup>4</sup> Let your delight be in the Lord  
**and he will give you your | heart's desire.**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him,  
**and he will bring | it to pass.**

<sup>6</sup> He will make your righteousness as clear as the light  
**and your just dealing | as the noonday.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait for him  
**do not fret over those that prosper as they follow their | evil schemes.**

<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger and abandon wrath  
**do not fret, lest you be moved | to do evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,  
**but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

<sup>10</sup> Yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more  
**you will search for their place and | find them gone.**

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land  
**and shall delight in abundance of peace.**

**REFRAIN**

Luke 6:27-38 *Love your enemies*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

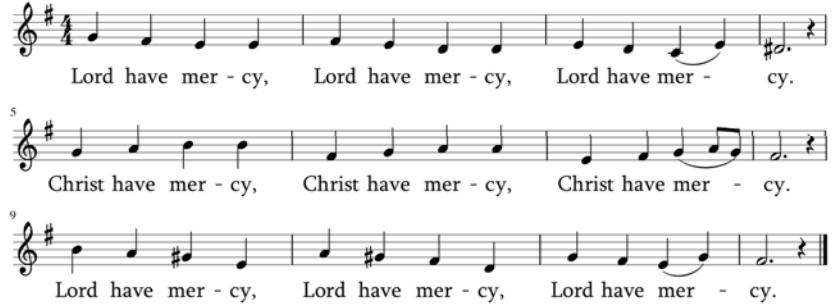
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Preaching of the Word**

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

Gl - ory to God in the high - est, and peace to God's 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: Eucharist***

### **Hymn 533 [tune 247] I come with joy to meet my Lord**

*(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.

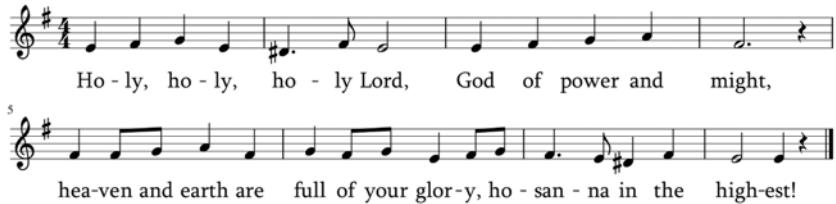
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

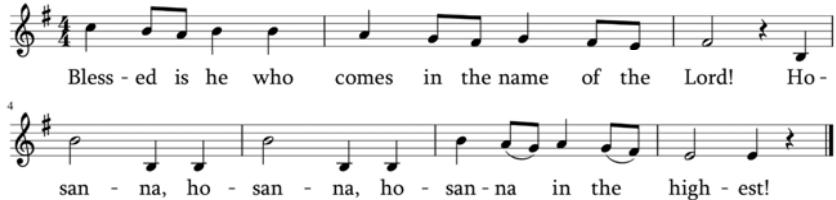
*(The prayer continues...)*

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, 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

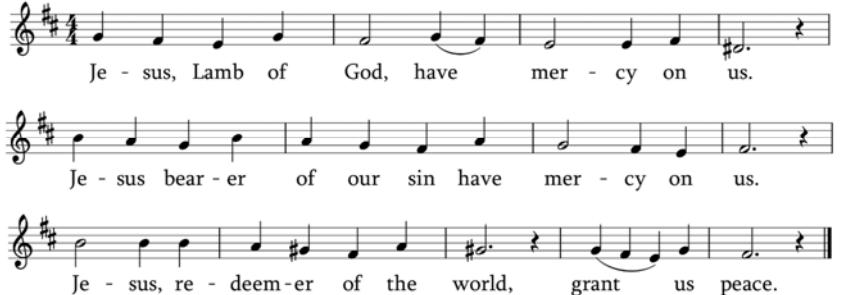
**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins,**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial**  
**and deliver us from 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** 690 Beauty for brokenness

### **Word of Mission and Blessing**

**Postlude** JB Walther, *Christum wir sollen loben schon*

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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)

### **France**

France was Christianized in the 5th century. The Catholic Church in France has been one of the main centres of western Christianity, and is the majority church. France was the birthplace of the Calvinist Reformation, but Protestantism has remained a minority. As a result of the Enlightenment and the French revolution, a particular concept of separating the temporal and the spiritual developed in France, called "laïcité". Islam has become the second religion, because of immigration, which has also brought many African Christian communities. The Protestant Federation of France embraces a wide variety of denominations, including Evangelical and Pentecostal groups. The Assemblies of God, the largest Pentecostal church, is not part of the Federation. The Council of Christian Churches groups together the Catholic Church, the Protestant Federation and the Orthodox churches. There is also an Evangelical Alliance, affiliated with the WEA. A survey in 2006 is showing a slight increase in the number of Protestants in France, mainly due to the growth of the Evangelical churches, especially those of African origin.

### **Germany**

Christianity spread through the area of Germany from the 3rd to the 12th century. In 1517, Martin Luther issued his 95 Theses at Wittenberg, which signalled the start of the Protestant Reformation. Today, Christians are about equally divided between Catholics and Protestants (of the territorial Lutheran, Reformed, and United churches), with a sizeable Orthodox minority (mostly due to immigration) and a number of Free churches, including Protestants as well as Pentecostals and others.

Most of the Orthodox churches are indirect members of the WCC through their Patriarchate, the Moravians and Anglicans through their wider church structures, and the Methodists through the United Methodist Church of which they are part.

The Council of Christian Churches in Germany is the ecumenical body, which includes the Catholic Church. The German Evangelical Alliance groups Evangelical Christians in the territorial churches and the Free churches, and is affiliated with the WEA. In 2000, the number of Evangelicals, Pentecostals and Charismatics was estimated at 6.3 percent of the total number of Christians.

## NOTICES

We welcome today Sione Hehepoto as our guest preacher. Sione is a candidate for the UCA Ministry of the Word at Pilgrim College. As part of the CTM community, the Church Council will invite some of the candidates to preach at MtE over the course of the year.

### **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**

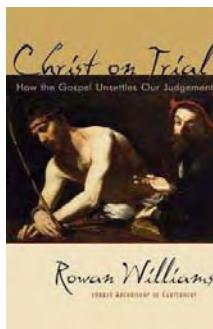
Our Lenten Studies for 2025 will use Rowan Williams' *Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles our Judgement*.

#### **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).**

### **WEST MELBOURNE BAPTIST CHURCH INVITATION**

WMBC partners with MtE in the operation of Hotham Mission; we reside on the WMBC site and they provide some administrative oversight of the Mission's work. You may be interested to attend worship with them this evening at 5.30pm. Baptist pastor Rev Dr Peter Bentley will draw on sacred texts and the mysteries of life in revealing God.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Hymn-learning session	Sun Mar 2 after worship
Church Council	Tue Mar 4, 730pm (online)
Ash Wednesday Service @ CTM chapel	Wed Mar 5 1.15pm <b>NEW</b>
Lenten Studies (see website for details)	Weekly from March Wed 5/Fri 7
Hotham Mission Executive	Fri Mar 21, 3.00 at the CTM
Church Council – Special Meeting	Mar 23, after morning tea <b>NEW</b>

### **People to commemorate this week**

George Herbert, faithful servant

### **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

France, Germany, Monaco

### **Lectionary Readings | 02 March 2025**

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

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

**Contact:** Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

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

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

[www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)