

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Lent 1C | March 9 2025



The temptation of Christ, Ivan Kramskoi (Russia, 1872)
Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

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 P Du Mage, *Basse de Trompette*

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!

How shall I repay the Lord
for all the good things God has done for me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

(Psalm 116:12-13)

Prayer of invocation

***Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden;
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Welcome

Hymn 577 Come, let us to the Lord our God (Hosea 6:1-4)

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 26:5b-11 Remember God's care of you.

Psalm 91 sung (see TiS 49 Tune: Teann A Nall)

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 The temptation of Jesus

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 (from the Church of Scotland)

(Kyrie eleison, in the Greek of the New Testament, means "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!

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

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

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 507 Come Holy Spirit, your influence shed

(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)

The Invitation

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.

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs, billabongs and
waterholes, we bless and magnify you...

(The prayer continues...)

...And so we praise you

with the faithful of every time and place,
joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation
in the eternal hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea - ven and earth are
ful of your glo - ry, ho - sa - na in the high - est! Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord! Ho - sa - na in the high - est, ho - sa - na in the high - est!

(The prayer continues...)

... and live to the glory of your name:

Blessing and honour... Amen.

*Eucharistic Prayer D, The Season of Lent (adapted)
With One Voice, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (Gail Ramshaw)*

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....

...Let us receive what we are,
let us become what we receive:
The body of Christ.



Lambof God,you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lambof God,you take a-way the sin of the world;have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lambof God,you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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.

Post Communion Prayer

***God of heaven and earth,
You make us one in Christ.
Inspire us with new vision
and the wisdom of ancient dreams.
Give us strength to walk together
until we come to our eternal home.
In Christ's name.
Amen.***

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

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 561 Who would true valour see

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude P Du Mage, *Grand Jeu*

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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

Ireland

Ireland was settled by the Celts between 800 and 100 BC. From the 12th through the 18th century, England gradually imposed its rule and in 1801 a union of Ireland and Great Britain was formed. In the 1840s Ireland suffered the great famine, in which one million people died, and several millions emigrated. The struggle for Irish independence led in 1922 to the partition of the island into the Irish Free State (now the Republic of Ireland), and Northern Ireland (Ulster) that remained with Great Britain. The Irish government has been involved with Britain in the efforts to end the conflict in Northern Ireland, which resulted in the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. For most of the 20th century Ireland was struck by poverty and emigration. In 1973 it joined the European Economic Community (now the EU). In the 1990s the economy developed rapidly and the country is now among the wealthiest in Europe. Ireland was being Christianized by the 3rd century, and Irish missionaries participated in spreading the Christian faith to the European continent. During the Reformation most of Ireland remained Roman Catholic, and the Roman Catholic Church is the majority church. After the Church of Ireland (Anglican), the largest Protestant churches are the Presbyterians and the Methodists. All the churches, as well as the Irish Council of Churches, cover the Republic and Northern Ireland. The Irish Inter-Church Meeting brings together the Catholic Church and the Irish Council of Churches. The Irish churches have actively worked for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

United Kingdom

The British isles were Christianized as early as the second century. Since the Reformation, the Anglicans form the established church in England, and the Presbyterians the national church in Scotland. Along with the Methodists, Reformed and Baptists, many Free churches exist, and in the 20th century many other Pentecostal, Charismatic and Evangelical churches and groups have emerged. The independent African and Afro-Caribbean churches are very lively and strong. Among the Orthodox churches the Ecumenical Patriarchate is the largest. There are also sizeable Russian, Bulgarian, Armenian and other Orthodox churches. There are national councils of churches in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and an overarching one for Britain and Ireland. All have the Catholic Church as member, except for Ireland. The Free churches have their own groupings. There is also an Evangelical Alliance, affiliated with the WEA.

NOTICES

MARK THE WORD

Vicki and Rosemary are seeking contributions for the 2025 Autumn edition of *Mark the Word*. We are again not proposing a theme for this edition and are open to any topic.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could send these via email to us (vicki.radcliffe@gmail.com or rosemarywearing@gmail.com) **no later than Sunday, 23rd March, 2025**. Thank you.

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre



Thursday 20th March – The Ethics of Voting: a free public forum hosted by The Wesley Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Policy. What are the big issues facing Australia this election? Whose interests do we have in mind when we vote?

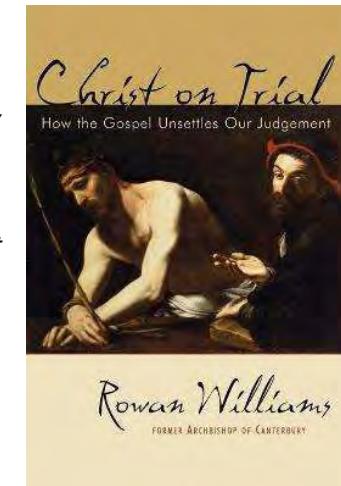
What is our moral obligation to others? With a Federal Election coming up, you are invited to join The Wesley Centre for a public conversation on the ethics of voting. This is part of the Wesley "Conversations that Matter" series – free, lunchtime events in Melbourne's CBD. Join us to hear Robyn Whitaker in conversation with John Pesutto, Liberal member for Hawthorn and former Leader of the Opposition in Victoria, and Bronwyn Pike, former Labor MP and current CEO of Uniting VicTas, about the state of our democracy, the big issues this election, and the values behind the politics. These '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.

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).



DUELING 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>

We'd love you to join us for an all day

Taizé retreat



at Northcote Uniting Church, with Brother Merric
from the Taizé community in France on:

Saturday, 5 April from 10am-8.30pm

On the day:

- Learn about the Taizé community in France
- Hear from Brother Merric
- Meet for small group discussions
- Learn new song parts
- Taizé prayer.

Pizza and wine will be served after
evening prayer. Please BYO lunch
or buy on vibrant High Street!

Can't make the full day? Join us
for Taizé evening prayer at 7pm.

Join the Taizé in Melbourne, Australia
Facebook group or What's App channel
for updates or email: admin@nuc.org.au



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Lenten Studies (see website for details)

Church Council – Special Meeting

Quarterly Conversation

Hotham Mission Executive

Weekly from March Wed 5/Fri 7

Mar 23, after morning tea

Fri Apr 4 11:00am **NEW**

Fri Apr 4, 3:00pm at the CTM

People to commemorate this week

Perpetua & Felicitas, martyrs

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales

Lectionary Readings | 16 March 2025

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

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

www.hothammission.org.au

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