

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Lent 2C | March 16 2025

O Lord GOD,
what will you
give me?

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 JL Krebs, *Prelude in F*

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

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

Sung Processional

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

If the LORD is our light and our salvation;

whom then shall we fear

If the LORD is the strength of our lives;

of whom then shall we be afraid?

Let us worship the LORD,

who is light, salvation and strength

Ex Psalm 27.1,2

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 125 The God of Abraham praise vv1-3, 5,6

With the Children

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.

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 *The word of the LORD came to Abraham in a vision*

Psalms 27 (via Hymn 15 *God is my strong salvation*)

Luke 13:31-35 *Where prophets must be killed*

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



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.

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 394 Christ is risen!

(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.

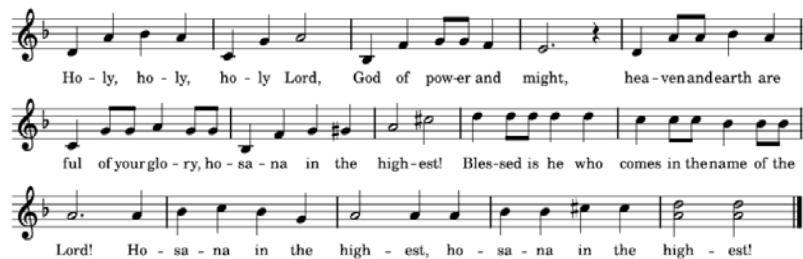
Lift up your hearts.

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...)



(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.***

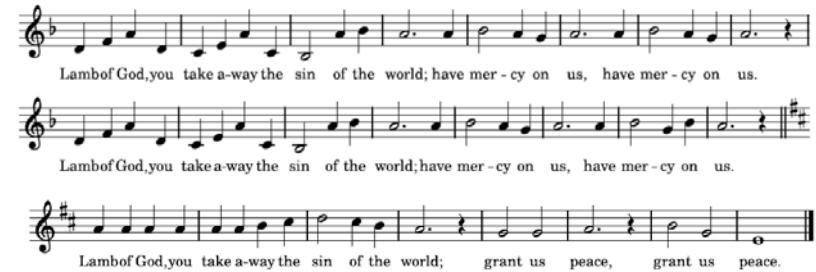
***Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.***

***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....



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

The Communion

The United 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.

We set the offering at the foot of the cross, with the whole of ourselves.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 617 By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude JG Walther, *Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele*

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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

Denmark

Culturally the country belongs to the Nordic region. It shares with the other Nordic countries a tradition of tolerance, peace and international solidarity. In the 16th century Denmark adopted the Lutheran Reformation. The Lutheran Church is the national church and the "folk church". It participates actively in ecumenical dialogues and is signatory to the Leuenberg Agreement. Immigration has strengthened the minority Catholic and Orthodox communities. There is a Baptist Union, and several Charismatic groups. Denmark has an Evangelical Alliance affiliated with the WEA.

Finland

Finland belongs to the Nordic region of Europe. It was part of the kingdom of Sweden from the 12th to the 19th century, when it was annexed by Russia and became a Grand Duchy in the Czarist Empire. In 1917 Finland declared its independence. In the Winter War of 1939-40 with the Soviet Union it lost part of its territory. Finland fought alongside Germany against the Soviet Union during World War II, and remained a neutral country in the cold war period. In the last 50 years Finland has made a remarkable transformation from a farm-forest economy to a diversified modern industrial economy. It is a member of the European Union. Christianity came to Finland from the East (Orthodox, from Russia), and from the West (Catholic, from Sweden). When Sweden adopted the Lutheran Reformation, the western church in Finland also became Lutheran. The reformation was a peaceful and gradual process. Historically the Lutheran Church was the state church, but the Lutheran and Orthodox churches have the same status since Finland became independent, and both are national churches. Several smaller Protestant denominations like the Baptists and Methodists came to Finland in the second half of the 19th century. The Methodists are part of the United Methodist Church. Pentecostals have established themselves in the 20th century and constitute the largest non-Lutheran group. Finnish Evangelicals are affiliated with the WEA through the Finnish Lausanne Committee.

Iceland

Iceland, an island in the North Atlantic just below the Arctic Circle, is the westernmost country of Europe. The population is descended from Scandinavian Vikings and Celtic immigrants, and is quite homogeneous with very insular institutions and traditions. Iceland has the world's oldest functioning legislative assembly, which was founded in 930. Independent for over 300 years, it was subsequently ruled by Denmark and Norway, until it was granted limited home rule in 1874, and full independence in 1944. Iceland's economy and prosperity is based on the fishing industry. The country has an extensive welfare system. Iceland became Christian by a decision of its assembly in the year 1000. It adopted the Lutheran Reformation. The Evangelical Lutheran Church is the national church, and is an integral part of the history and culture of the Icelandic people. There is a small Lutheran Free Church, and a Pentecostal church.

Norway

Norway was christianized at the end of 10th century and adopted the Lutheran Reformation in the 16th century. Apart from the Church of Norway (Lutheran), which used to be the state church and is still the majority church there are several smaller free churches, the Catholic Church, Orthodox churches and Pentecostal and charismatic churches and groups. Since March 2006, virtually all the churches are together in one national body, the new Christian Council of Norway. Besides the Church of Norway which is a member of the WCC, the Orthodox, the Anglican, the Finnish and Swedish Lutheran and the United Methodist churches in Norway as well as the German-speaking congregation are part of the WCC through the ecclesial structures outside the country to which they belong. There is also an evangelical alliance, called the Norwegian Council on Mission and Evangelism (NORME) which is affiliated with the World Evangelical Alliance.

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.

DUELLING HARPSICORDS, 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



**NORTHCOTE
UNITING
CHURCH**



Please register online for both the retreat and if you are staying for the meal after evening prayer, to help with catering.

Northcote
Uniting Church
251 High Street,
Northcote
www.nuc.org.au



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Lenten Studies (see website for details)
Hotham Mission Executive
Church Council – Special Meeting
Quarterly Conversation

Weekly from March Wed 5/Fri 7
Fri Mar 21, 3.00 at the CTM
Mar 23, after morning tea
Fri Apr 4 11:00am

People to commemorate this week

Patrick & Ninian, Christian pioneers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Lectionary Readings | 23 March 2025

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

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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