

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Lent 4C | March 30 2025

The problem with grace

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 JG Walther (after Gentili), *Concerto in A*

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.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice,
shout for joy,
all who are upright in heart.

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

The Lord is our hiding place;
he surrounds us with cries of deliverance.

Come, then, let us worship the LORD

Psalm 32.11,1,7

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 443 Come dearest Lord, descend and dwell

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 forever.**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *He was dead and is alive again*

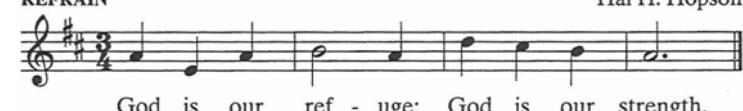
Psalm 32 *Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven*

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 entry doors, the second bold-italic line by the other side

REFRAIN

Hal H. Hopson



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TONE



¹ Happy the one whose transgression | is forgiven,
and whose | sin is covered.

² Happy the one to whom the Lord im-p-|-utes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile.

³ For I | held my tongue;
**my bones wasted away through my groaning
| all the day long.**

⁴ Your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up like the | drought in summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my | sin to you
and my iniquity I | did not hide.

⁶ I said, 'I will confess my transgressions | to the Lord,'
and you forgave the | guilt of my sin.

⁷ Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;

in the great water flood, it | shall not reach them.

⁸ You are a place for me to hide in; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with | songs of deliverance.

⁹ 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.

¹⁰ 'Be not like horse and mule which have no | understanding;
**whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle,
or else they will | not stay near you.'**

¹¹ Great tribulations remain | for the wicked,
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.

¹² Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

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.

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 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.

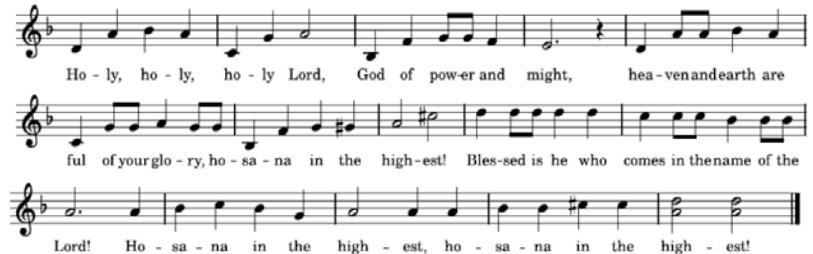
Lift up your hearts.

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...)



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.

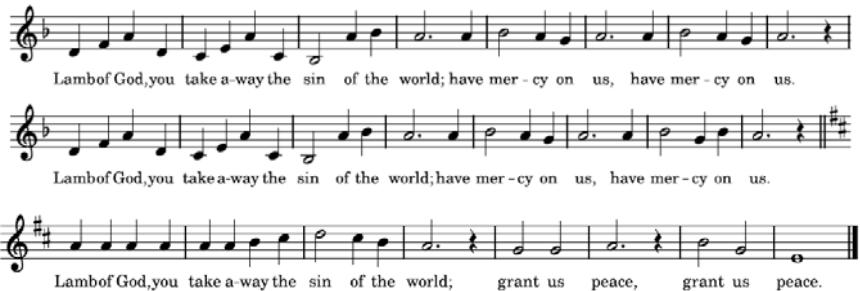
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

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....



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

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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, 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.

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 628 In faith and hope and love

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude JL Krebs, *Ach Herr mich armen Suender*

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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

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic was established in 1993, after the peaceful division of former Czechoslovakia into two states. The Czech are a Slavonic people who have been living in the area since the 5th century. From the 17th through the beginning of the 20th century the territory was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Czechoslovakia was founded in 1918. It came under communist rule in 1948, after World War II, until 1989 when the Soviet bloc collapsed. The country was one of the industrial centres of the Soviet bloc. It has been rapidly adjusting to liberal economy and joined the European Union in 2004. During the communist period, the churches were to a large extent controlled by the Communist Party and were not allowed to work freely. Prague, the capital, was the home of the Christian Peace Conference. However, after the repression of the attempt to create a "socialism with a human face" in 1968, Prague became also a centre of dissidence in the Soviet-ruled part of Europe. The Ecumenical Council groups the main Protestant, Pentecostal, Orthodox, and Old-Catholic churches. The Roman Catholic Church, which is the majority church, is an associate member of the council. There is also a Czech Evangelical Alliance, which is affiliated with the WEA. The Czech land is the area of the early Reformer Jan Hus and the Moravians, who later moved to Hernnhut in Germany. The Baptist Theological Seminary, serving the whole of Europe, is located near Prague. The Czech Republic is today one of the most secularized countries in Europe.

Poland

Poland's society, culture, and public life are deeply marked by the influence of the majority Catholic Church. But the minority Orthodox and Lutheran churches are also part of Poland's history, as are the Old-Catholic churches. Together with the smaller Methodist, Reformed and Baptist churches they form the Ecumenical Council of Poland. The Assemblies of God (Pentecostal) are present, as well as some Evangelical churches. The Polish Evangelical Alliance is affiliated with the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA).

NOTICES

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre



Wesley Conversation #3 - Facing Death in a death-denying culture with Dr Brian Macallan - theologian, philosopher, and author of "Forgiving God: Embracing a Risky Adventure with the Divine". 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.

QUARTERLY CONVERSATION - FRIDAY 4th APRIL, 11.00AM



in the library at [the Center for Theology and Ministry](#). (Some parking *may* be available onsite, but plan to park in the surrounding streets, just in case...). **Catch a coffee at the CTM cafe before the meeting** (although coffee not allowed in the library), **and then stay for lunch afterwards!**

More info: www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

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>

BRONZEWING: KATIE YAP AND DONALD - SATURDAY APRIL 12, TEMPO RUBATO

Bronzewing: Katie Yap and Donald - hildegard, bach and new works Saturday April 12, 8:00 pm at Tempo Rubato Brunswick
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1295174>

LYREBIRD MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS RACHAEL BEESLEY & COADY

GREEN, SUNDAY 6TH APRIL, 2PM

On Sunday 6th April at 2pm we welcome violinist Rachael Beesley and pianist Coady Green, playing an all-Mozart program.

These wonderful musicians are well known to many of us, and each of them wear many hats in their busy performing schedules. Rachael and Coady have been exploring the fabulous violin sonatas of Mozart together, and fortunately they have agreed to perform some of them for our next concert. Not to be missed!

Here's the link for tickets - we hope to see you then.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CYSNI>

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.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Lenten Studies (see website for details)

Quarterly Conversation

Hotham Mission Executive

Weekly from March Wed 5/Fri 7

Fri Apr 4, 11:00am

Fri Apr 4, 3:00pm at the CTM

People to commemorate this week

Maria Skobtsova, martyr

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Lectionary Readings | 06 April 2025

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

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

Contact: Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

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www.hothammission.org.au

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