

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Lent 5C | April 6 2025

*Have in you
the mind of
Christ...*

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 H Scheidemann, *Christ Lag in Todesbanden*

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.

Let us worship the LORD;

***The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.***

Psalm 126.4

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 143 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

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.***

Philippians 3.4b-14 *To know Christ and his resurrection*

Psalm 126 *Our mouth was filled with laughter*

Read responsively:

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
 then it was said among the nations,
'The LORD has done great things for them.'

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
 and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
 shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

John 12.1-8 *Mary took a pound of costly perfume...*

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 499 Lord Jesus joy of loving hearts

(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.

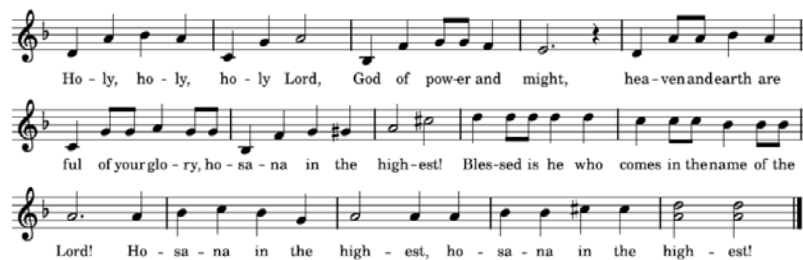
Lift up your hearts.

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

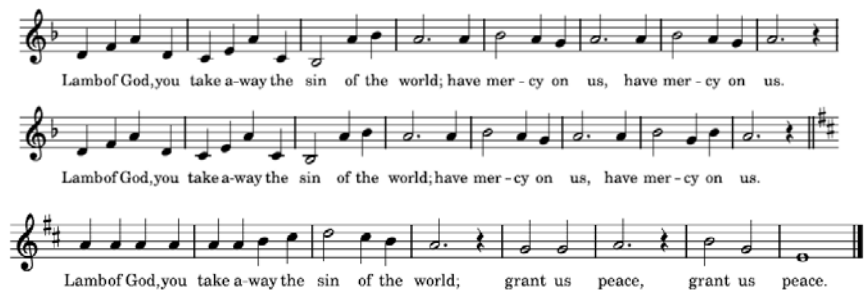
and deliver us from evil.

***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....



...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 572 (i) O thou who camest from above

Word of Mission and Blessing m

Postlude JL Krebs, Vom Himmel hoch, *da komm ich her*

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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

Albania

Albania has been successively part of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires. It became independent in 1912 and was a monarchy from 1924 to 1939, when it was invaded by fascist Italy. The Albanian Communist Party, formed in 1941, seized control of the country in 1944, installing one of the harshest communist dictatorships of modern history. Under Enver Hoxha, Albania was declared an atheist nation in 1967, and all religious and traditional beliefs were forbidden. It was a fear-driven regime, clamping down on all who resisted, intellectuals, clergy, and other opponents. Many Orthodox and Catholic bishops and priests were killed or sent to prison. Albania was politically and economically isolated from the rest of the world, including the communist world. In 1990, in the context of the end of the cold war and under internal pressure within the party and by the people, the communist regime collapsed. Since then, Albania has gone through several crises of instability, due in part to the conflicts in the Balkans. The political and economic situation is improving, but slowly. The two largest churches, Orthodox and Catholic, have re-established themselves. Islam has also re-affirmed itself in Albania. There has been a considerable influx of Evangelical, Pentecostal and other Christian faith missions. Relationships between the faith communities are on the whole tolerant. There is no council of churches.

Croatia

Today's Croatia was comprised of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the end of the First World War, when Croatia joined the kingdom which, in 1929, became Yugoslavia. Croatia declared independence in 1991. Almost immediately, the country was afflicted with civil war as the Serbian minority (in control of much of the army) fought to create a Serbian state. The war continued until 1995. There were serious human rights violations during the conflict inflicted by both Croats and Serbs, including massacres and the widespread use of rape, as well as considerable destruction of villages and houses. The Roman Catholic church has a long history in Croatia, but in 1945 a bloody era of persecution began that lasted into the early 1950s. Many clergy were imprisoned, tortured, and even executed. In 1990 Roman Catholic clergy succeeded in establishing mandatory religious instruction in public schools. Ecumenical activities have recently resumed. There are no WCC member churches based in this country.

MtE at Mission

- At its most recent meeting (April 1), MtE Church Council resolved to make a donation of \$5000 to the Act for Peace Middle East Appeal, in response to the ongoing crisis and deep need in Gaza. The CC encourages members of the congregation to consider making personal donations via <https://actforpeace.org.au/middle-east-appeal/> and support for the filming of "The Other" at a date and time TBC
- The CC also agreed to partner with the Synod's Justice and International Mission Unit in the screening of the documentary *The Other*, which relates the efforts of Israeli and Palestinian peace activists in Israel. Details of the screening are still to be finalised (trailer: <https://weuncoverfilms.com/theother/>)
- The CC agreed to funding to establish a ministry to/with children, in cooperation with other UCA congregations in our area. Work on this will commence after Easter.
- The congregation has provided three sets of study books for the CTM's Otira Theological Library, which have featured in recent issues of Crosslight.
- AND, we are involved in setting up a Candidates' Forum for the seat of Melbourne, to be held at 5.30pm on April 29 at Wesley Uniting in Lonsdale Street.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Passion Sunday — April 13 — 10.00am. A reading of the Passion narrative (according to St Luke), with Eucharist

Holy Week services, 12.30pm Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th in the CTM chapel; 20 minutes or so!

Maundy Thursday — April 17 — A Tenebrae service around St John's Passion, 7.30pm (gathered only, not live-streamed)

Good Friday — April 18 — 10.00am (gathered and live-streamed)

Easter Vigil — Saturday April 19 — 8.00pm (gathered only, not live-streamed)

Easter Day — Sunday April 20 — 10.00am (gathered and live-streamed)
Normal service times on Sundays (10.00) after Easter

NOTICES

Welcome today Andrew Gador Whyte as our guest preacher.

AKBAR OUR NEIGHBOUR

Akbar, the Iranian asylum seeker supported by this congregation since his release from (illegal) detention in 2013, continues to live in Australia with no visa, no work rights and no legal status. Thanks to his generously/private funded North Melbourne gardening 'work', and the regular financial contributions of some of our congregation members he enjoys some financial independence. He has recently overcome an accommodation 'crisis' with practical assistance from these sources. Akbar is included in our prayers of intercession on the first Sunday in each month.

Rosalie Hudson

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.

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>

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>

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Hymn-learning session

Holy Week and Easter Services

Seat of Melb. Candidates' Forum (UCA event)

Church Council

Apr 13, after morning tea [NEW](#)

As outlined above!

Tue April 29, 5.30pm at Wesley Church [NEW](#)

May 6, 7.30pm (online)

People to commemorate this week

Martin Luther King Jnr, martyr & social activist

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia

Lectionary Readings | 13 April 2025

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

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

www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au