

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Epiphany 4A | 1 February 2026

Blessed

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-F Dandrieu, *Ofertoire*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 52 v. 1)

If you are able, please stand when the cantor sings the first line, and sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space:

*Let us sing to the God of salvation,
let us sing to the Lord our rock!
Let us come to God's house with thanksgiving,
let us come before the Lord and sing!

Praise our Maker, praise our saviour,
praise the Lord our everlasting king!
Every throne must bow before him,
God is Lord of everything!*

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Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Do not lift your eyes to the hills,
do not raise them to the horizons:

Our help comes not from the heights nor the depths;
our help comes from the Lord.

Psalm 121

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 474 Here in this place

With the Children

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

ForeWord

Word: The Testimony of Scripture

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

Matthew 5:12 *Blessed*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

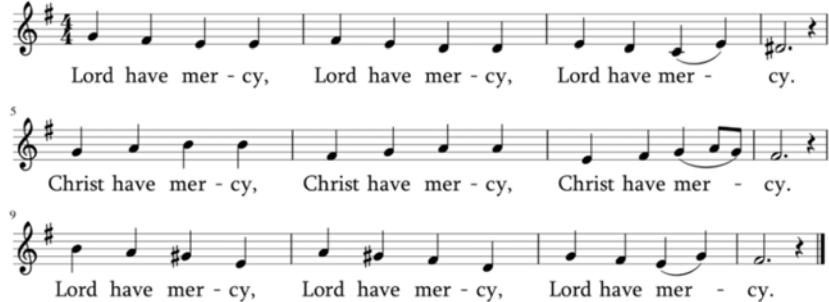
Word: In Preaching

*The sermon text will normally be available
after worship and online*

A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching

AfterWord: Confession

LORD HAVE MERCY



Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.
5 Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.
9 Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

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'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 Intercession

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



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.*

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 448 Blest are the pure in Heart

(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.

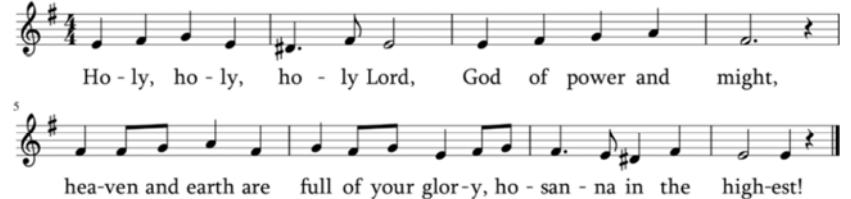
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

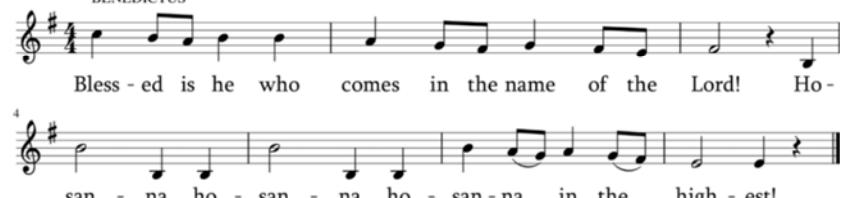
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)

SANCTUS



BENEDICTUS

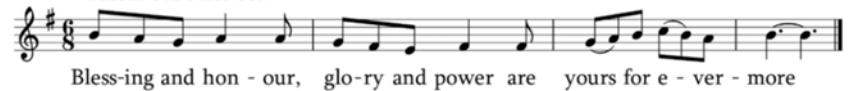


(The prayer continues...)

CHRIST HAS DIED



BLESSING AND HONOUR



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

...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.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 626 Lord of creation

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude D Buxtehude, *Praeludium*

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The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

Algeria

Algeria is the second largest country in Africa after Sudan. It became independent in 1962 after more than 130 years of French colonial rule and a bitter liberation struggle. In cooperation with the small churches in the country and the Algerian government, the WCC, CIMADE and other ecumenical agencies founded in 1962 the Christian Committee for Service in Algeria. After a period of emergency relief, the CCSA developed a vast reforestation programme. By 1965, more than 22 million fruit and timber trees had been planted and another 50 million seedlings were handed over to the government. Ever since independence, the National Liberation Front (FLN) has dominated politics in Algeria, although a surprising first round electoral success of the fundamentalist Islamic National Front (FIS) in 1991 spurred the army to intervene, to prevent the Islamists from forming a government. Since then Algeria has struggled through a continuous low level civil conflict between Islamic activists and the secular state apparatus. This terrorism has had a profound impact among the Algerian population, of whom nearly 100,000 were killed before the FIS's armed wing was disbanded in January 2000. In 2005 the population voted in favour of a referendum on national reconciliation. While progress towards peace is slowly being made, better living conditions for the people and democratization continue to be Algeria's greatest challenge.

Morocco

The original inhabitants of Morocco are the Berbers, who have lived there for more than 3000 years. Today, approximately three-quarters of the citizens of Morocco are ethnically Berber. Islam came to the country at the end of the seventh century and is the state religion. In 1904 the country was partitioned into Spanish and French areas with the French controlling most of today's kingdom. During the Second World War Morocco was occupied by the US to replace administration from Vichy, after which it returned to French rule. The country's long struggle from France ended in 1956. More than half the population of Morocco is illiterate, and approximately 20 percent live in dire poverty. Roman Catholicism came with the French and Spanish colonizers and continues to be practiced by their descendants. The largest Protestant domination in Morocco is the Evangelical Church of Morocco, which is related to the Reformed Church in France. There are no WCC member churches based in this country.

NOTICES

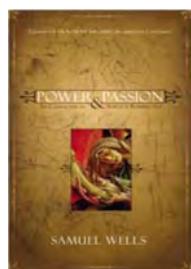
FAITH AFTER FAITH

Craig publishes weekly on *Faith after Faith*, a Substack site. You can subscribe to receive email updates of recent posts (avoid the paid subscription invitations!). Use the QR image here to check in or see faithafterfaith.substack.com for more info. Recent posts include:

- Recent Sermons
- Turning Pages – Infocracy (book review)



LENTEN STUDIES – “Power and Passion”



Samuel Wells vividly paints the stories surrounding Jesus' cross and resurrection. We see the weakness of Pontius Pilate and Barabbas, and the compromised character of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. We discover the subtle power of Pilate's wife. And in Peter and Mary Magdalene we find the true power of resurrection, bringing forgiveness and ending the stranglehold of death, thus transforming all human passion. Through close readings of the gospel texts, Wells demonstrates the significance of these characters for faith and life today. In this book, structured with one chapter for each week of Lent, Wells guides us from the deathly power that put Jesus on the cross to the new power brought by Jesus' resurrection. The book offers opportunities at the end of each chapter for prayer and discussion.

At the moment, two online (Zoom) groups are planned from Wednesday February 18 (7.45pm) and Friday February 20 (1.30PM), for six weeks (one week per chapter). (We are, however, hoping to be able to offer other groups in co-operation with other congregations — these will be added to the page here as they are confirmed). (Let us know if you would like to offer a parallel series of studies on this text we could advertise!)

Monday Morning Movies @ The Nova Mon Feb 2, 10.50am: It Was Just an Accident



From master filmmaker Jafar Panahi comes *IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT*, a searing moral thriller that won the prestigious Palme d'Or at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival. Vahid (Vahid Mobasseri), an unassuming mechanic and former political prisoner, has a chance encounter with Eghbal (Ebrahim Azizi), a man he strongly suspects to be the intelligence officer who tortured him during imprisonment. Panicked, Vahid gathers several former prisoners, all abused by that same captor, to try and confirm Eghbal's identity. As the bickering group drives around Tehran with the captive, they must confront how far to take matters into their own hands with their presumed tormentor. *IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT* engages with complex nature of the uncertainty of truth and the choice between revenge and mercy, allowing Panahi to turn his personal dissonance into a profound and galvanizing work of art. Two Academy Awards nominations: Best International Feature Film and Original Screenplay!

Fragment 9 The question is not whether God exists. The question is, What is the theomorphic thing in your life? What do you fear? (Fragment 7: A god is something we fear.)



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

Monday Morning Movies @ The Nova Church Council	Mon Feb 2, 10:50am
Quarterly Conversation on the Quarterly Essay	Tue Feb 3 7.30pm Online
LENTEN STUDIES!	Fri Feb 6, 11.00am CTM Library Beginning Feb 18/20

People to commemorate this week

Friedrich Schleiermacher, Christian thinker

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

Lectionary Readings | 08 February 2026

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalms 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16);
Matthew 5:13-20

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

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www.hothammission.org.au

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