

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Epiphany 5A | 8 February 2026

law prophets
salt light
justice water
righteousness

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 GG Nivers, *Prelude du 1me Ton*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 61 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:

***Sing, all creation, sing to God in gladness,
joyously serve him, singing hymns of homage,
chanting his praises, come before his presence:
Praise the Almighty!***

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Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Come, stand in the house of God.
Come sing to God.
Come, praise the LORD.

***The LORD has done great things;
we come to be made new,
and to worship.***

Prayer of invocation

Hymn AHB 2 Father, we praise you [tune TIS 472]

1. Father, we praise you, now the night is over,
active and watchful, stand we all before you;
singing we offer prayer and meditation:
thus we adore you.

2. Monarch of all things, fit us for thy mansions;
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
bring us to heaven, where your saints united
joy without ending.

3. All holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;
yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding
through all creation.

Attrib: Gregory the Great; Tr: Percy Dearmer

With the Children



The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

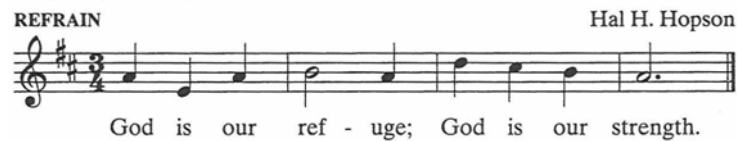
Word: The Testimony of Scripture

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

Isaiah 58:1-12 ...*then you shall be like a spring whose waters never fail*

Psalms 112 *Those who fear the Lord conduct their affairs with justice* PCS 112

The refrain is sung before and after the psalm, and between verses sung by the cantor.



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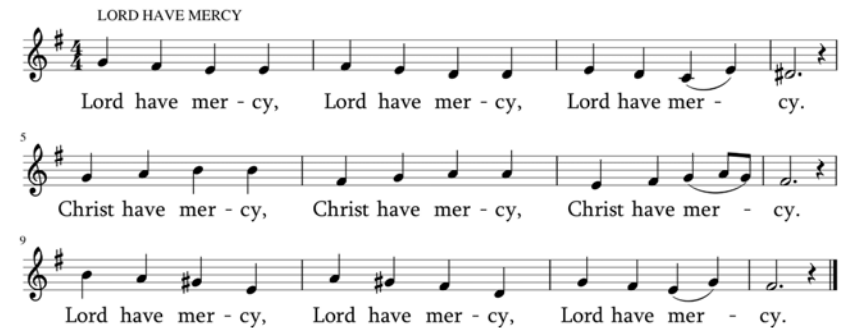
Matthew 5:13-20 *You are the salt of the earth*

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Word: In Preaching

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

AfterWord: 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!

Doxology



Gl - ory to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - 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 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...)

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
5 hea-ven and earth are full of your glor-y, ho - san - na in the high-est!

BENEDICTUS



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho -
4 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

(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

...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 531 Sent forth by God's blessing

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude J Titelouze, Trio & Plein 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/>

People to Commemorate

Cyril & Methodius, Christian pioneers

The ninth century was perhaps the most active period of missionary activity in the Eastern (Orthodox) churches since apostolic times. Patriarch Photius chose two Greek brothers from Thessalonica, Constantine whose monastic name was Cyril, (826-869), and Methodius (?815-885) to initiate the conversion of the pagan Slavs - Moravians, Bulgarians, Serbs and Russians. They had grown up on the borders of these

lands, and they knew the Slavonic language, amongst others. Cyril was a librarian and known as a philosopher; both were ordained priests. In 863 they set off for what is now the Czech lands with an invitation from the local prince and the blessing of the Byzantine emperor.

In preparation for this venture, the brothers had translated the Gospels, the larger part of the New Testament and some of the Old, and the liturgical books into Slavonic, an enormous task, especially since they had to begin by inventing an alphabet, now known, in a developed form, as Glagolitic or Cyrillic. That is, they set out with the basic tools to build a church of peoples who did not know Christ. What is known as Church Slavonic is still the basic liturgical language of the Russian and related churches, and a great literature grew from it in the related languages.

Their methodology however was in contrast to that of Rome, whose missionaries had to teach their converts Latin before they could teach them anything else - and indeed there were clashes between missionaries of the two Christian centres. At this stage, however, the eastern and western wings believed themselves to belong to the one universal church, and the brothers travelled to Rome to place their mission under the Pope. Their exceptional approach and their church books received his blessing, but sadly, under that pope's successor, and under German Catholic influence back in Moravia, the old Latin approach was enforced, and the saints' work eradicated soon after Methodius died. However, the seeds had been sown, and bore fruit especially in Russia, Bulgaria and Serbia, whose rulers consciously chose Cyril and Methodius's way. Rightly are they known as the 'apostles of the Slavs'. Success took a long time and was largely achieved by decision of tsars and princes. Some half-convinced Greek missionaries used Greek, which was no more understandable to the Bulgars than Latin; in Romania, a Latin-based culture, the Slavonic influence is still mixed with the Latin in the Orthodox Church.

The younger brother Cyril died in Rome (he became a monk in 868 just before his death on February 14th, 869) and is buried there. Methodius had been made a bishop by the pope (ca 870) for his return to Moravian lands after their embassy to Rome. He was imprisoned for two years by rival church authorities and endured many years of theological and ecclesiastical disputes. He died in Moravia. Their pupils, however, carried on the work into further lands, paving the way for their declaration as co-Patrons of Europe, with St Benedict, by Pope John Paul II in 1980.

By Rev Dr Robert Gribben

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)
- New Theological Fragments (95-192)



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!)



Fragment 32

Sin is a theological achievement, not a moral assessment. Sin is properly something revealed, a reflex on an experience of the gospel by which the true nature of sin is uncovered.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

Ash Wednesday Service	Feb 18, 12.00pm in the CTM Chapel NEW
LENTEN STUDIES!	Beginning Feb 18/20
Hotham Mission Board	Fri Feb 20, 3pm hybrid
Monday Morning Movies @ The Nova	Mon Mar 2, time TBA
Church Council	Tue Mar 3 7.30pm Online

People to commemorate this week

Cyril & Methodius, Christian pioneers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City

Lectionary Readings | 15 February 2026

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

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

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