

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Lent 4A | 15 March 2026

On the irrelevance of miracles

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 Pachelbel, *Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 715)

*We stand to sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space. This can be sung as a round, repeating at **; you're welcome to chime in there if you'd like!*

Everything that has breath
****Praise the Lord of hosts forever, praise the Lord!**

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Come worship the Lord,
the Good Shepherd, our God.

He guides and protects,
he revives our souls.

He gives goodness and mercy for the days of our lives,
a place in his house forever. (Ps 23.1,3,6)

Prayer of invocation

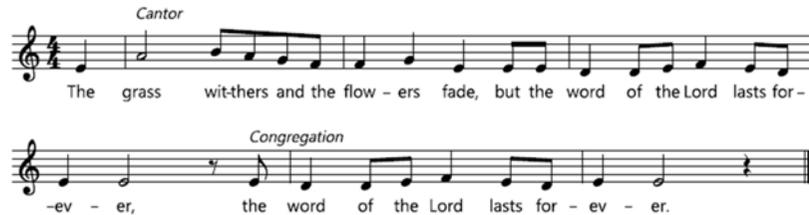
Hymn 447 Lord, your almighty word

With the Children

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

ForeWord

Word: The Testimony of Scripture



Cantor
The grass withers and the flow - ers fade, but the word of the Lord lasts for -

Congregation
-ev - er, the word of the Lord lasts for - ev - er.

John 9:1-42 *Surely we are not blind, are we?*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

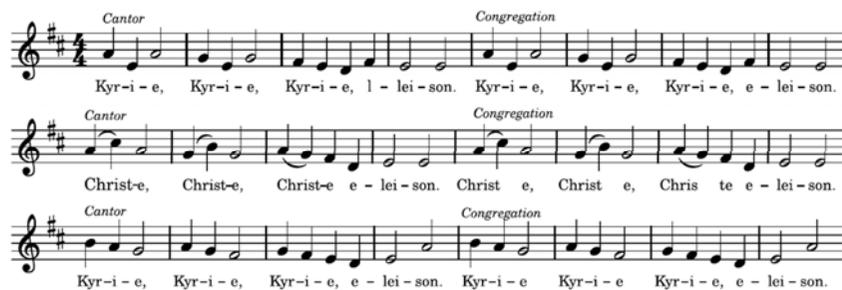
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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



Cantor
Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, l - lei-son. Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, e - lei-son.

Cantor
Christ-e, Christ-e, Christ-e e - lei-son. Christ e, Christ e, Chris te e - lei-son.

Cantor
Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, e - lei-son. Kyr-i - e Kyr-i - e Kyr-i - e, e - lei-son.

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 Intercession

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 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...)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are
full of your glor-y, ho - san-na in the high - est! Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, 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

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 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 585 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude JS Bach, *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*

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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/>

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
- "Consider the lilies" (sermon preached at Ormond College's Commencement Service)



Fragment 82

The Resurrection is to the other miracles as God is to the gods – so "above" the rest as not to be one of them.

Mark the Word

Vicki and Rosemary are seeking contributions for the Autumn 2026 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, 22nd March 2026. Thank you.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Passion Narrative Sunday March 29, 10.00am

Holy Week: Daily (Mon-Thur) prayer services in the CTM Chapel, 12.30-12.50pm

Maundy Thursday Evening: 7.30pm, in the CTM chapel (Tenebrae Service around St John's Passion)

Good Friday: Combined Service with CAN and Northcote UCA, 9.30am at Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston Street, Carlton

Easter Vigil Saturday April 4, 8pm in the Yuma Auditorium

Easter Day Sunday April 5, 10.00am as usual!

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

LENTEN STUDIES!	Wed/Fri till the end of March
Hotham Mission Board Executive	Fri Mar 20, 3pm hybrid
Holy Week / Easter Services	As detailed above
Church Council	Tue Apr 7, 7.30pm Online
Quarterly Conversation on the Quarterly Essay	Fri April 24, 1100am in the Library NEW

People to commemorate this week

Patrick & Ninian, Christian pioneers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

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

Lectionary Readings | March 8 2026

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

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

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