



St Mark's
NATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTRE



Priscilla's Catacombs in Rome.

This room is named for the picture in the semi-circle on the back wall, in which a young woman, wearing a rich purple garment and a veil on her head teaches the people.

www.commonswiki.org/wiki/File:Orantas_poza,_3.gs.pirms.Kr.,_Priscillas_katakombas,_Roma..jpg

Morning Prayer

Thursday 25th May 2023

Welcome to our livestreamed chapel. Join live 10.30am

<https://charlessturt.zoom.us/j/692025370>

further info: <https://stmarks.edu.au/about/worship-at-st-marks/>

If what we do is new to you, please feel free to let it wash over you, and join in as you are able. We say the short **bold sections** together, not caring if internet latency makes it a little garbled. If you are attending in person please make sure you are registered as being on site.

This is the message we have heard from Christ:

**that God is light, in whom there is
no darkness at all.**

1 John 1.5

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

The Opening Canticle, A Song of God's Herald

Go up to a high mountain
herald of good tidings to Zion:
lift up your voice with strength,
herald of good tidings to Jerusalem.
Lift up your voice, fear not:
say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'
See the Lord God, coming with power:
coming to rule with his mighty arm.
He brings his reward for the people of God:
the recompense for those who are saved.
God will feed his flock like a shepherd:
and gather the lambs in his arms;
He will hold them to his breast:
and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40.9-11

The Opening Prayer

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence may be kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Psalms as appointed. A pause is observed after each.

Psalm 95

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

3 For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

7 for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Today, if only you would hear his voice,

8 “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah[b] in the wilderness,

9 where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.

10 For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.’

11 So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

At the end of the (last) pause there may follow

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us in your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share our human nature, so we may be partakers in his divine glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

One or two Readings from the Bible as appointed.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5.

As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you—in person, not in heart—we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, wanted to again and again—but Satan blocked our way. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? Yes, you are our glory and joy!

Therefore, when we could bear it no longer, we decided to be left alone in Athens; and we sent Timothy, our brother and co-worker for God in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you for the sake of your faith, so that no one would be shaken by these persecutions. Indeed, you yourselves know that this is what we are destined for. In fact, when we were with you, we told you beforehand that we were to suffer persecution; so it turned out, as you know. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith; I was afraid that somehow the tempter had tempted you and that our labour had been in vain.

The readings may be followed by a period of silence for reflection, a hymn or

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The Prayers

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer and the Collect of the Day

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.

Prayer of the day [A Teacher]

Almighty God,
who gave to your servant Priscilla special gifts of grace
to understand and teach the truth in Christ Jesus:
grant that, enlightened by this teaching,
we may know you, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings may be made according to local custom and need.

We give thanks for the women of the scriptures: For **Sarah**, who dared to laugh at God's plans and then to take a part in them; for **Ruth**, who in the absence of a future trusted you; for the woman who bled profusely, and had the courage to ask a stranger to heal her; for **Priscilla** who taught your word, for **Mary of Magdala**, who became the first apostle of the resurrection.

God of grace ... **We thank you.**

We give thanks for the work of ordained women: In all denominations where that offering is embraced, in all communities where that touch is received, in all

circumstances where that ministry brings hope, and in all places where women offer a new way of being.

God of grace ... **We thank you.**

We pray for a fuller ministry for women as gospel partners: in denominations where their gifts may be quenched, in places where transformation is silently resisted, where women are fearful or prevented from full flourishing.

God of the future ... **Draw us onwards.**

We pray for women who protest: Those who keep alive the memory of 'the disappeared', Those who are the victims of domestic abuse, Those who are the casualties of war or armed combat, And those whose silent screams are known only to God.

God of the future ... **Draw us onwards.**

Together, women and men: We give thanks for the richness of the shared gifts of yesterday, we rejoice in today's celebration, and we pray in the determination that Christ will bring tomorrow's hope. **Amen.**

The Morning Collect

Lord and heavenly Father,
you have brought us safely to this new day:
keep us by your mighty power, protect us from sin,
guard us from every kind of danger,
and in all we do this day
direct us in the fulfilling of your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace equip us with everything good so that we may do his will; and may he work in us that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever.

Amen.

see Hebrews 13.20-21