



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome! Thank you for joining us. We are here to commune together with the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. "Worship is the gift of participating through the Spirit in the incarnate Son's communion with the Father" (J. B. Torrance; see Jn. 4:23-24; Eph. 2:18; 1 Jn. 1:3). We hope that you will hear clearly the Gospel, or Good News, about Jesus Christ, through whom we know God. We also hope that love and grace will characterize everything we do here. If you have children age three and under, you may use the nursery next door to the sanctuary, or keep them with you if you prefer. Please stay for refreshments and conversation after the service. We would be happy to field questions you might have about the faith or our church. (Visit ascensionpc.org/worship to learn more about our Worship.)

Please silence your electronic devices.

WORSHIP • APRIL 20, 2014 • EASTER SUNDAY



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The flame symbolizes the holy presence of God and the light of his Gospel among us.

God has the first word as **he calls us to Worship**. He takes the initiative in our relationship; he makes himself known to us and moves toward us in love (1 John 4:19). By God's grace alone we are invited, called into his presence. He has brought you here to respond to his grace.

The Triune God is a singing God (Zeph. 3:14-17)! So it is fitting to respond to him with **singing...**

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Easter Hymn • Public Domain

Alto

Christ the Lord is ris'n to-day Al - - - le -
lu - ia! sons of men and an - gels say
Al - - - le - lu - ia! raise your joys and
tri - umphs high; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
sing ye heavn's and earth re - ply. Al - - - le -
lu - ia!

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: 'Christ the Lord is ris'n to-day Al - - - le - lu - ia! sons of men and an - gels say Al - - - le - lu - ia! raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - - - le - lu - ia! sing ye heavn's and earth re - ply. Al - - - le - lu - ia!'.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids his rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n; Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia!
Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • John 3:16-17

“God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Our Father in heaven, we confess that we have doubted your gracious love. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our own agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise him, all creatures here below!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Isaiah 53:7-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

There is a sense in which all of Worship is **prayer**, a divine-human conversation.

It is actually God's *gracious* initiation in **calling us to confession** that enables us to do so (Lk. 5:1-11; Rom. 2:4). If not for the assurance of his love, we all would try to hide or deny our true guilt, for fear of his righteous anger. We cannot hide from God (Heb. 4:12-13), but the Good News is that we don't have to!

In Christ, we are free to be honest about who we are and to admit what we have done as rebels in God's sight. We **confess our sin** and our utter need for God's mercy and grace through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our reconciliation to God.

Because of what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, **we are assured that all our sins have been forgiven**. Our relationship with God has been completely restored forever! For many reasons, we need to be reminded of this Good News often.

Our grateful, joyful, loving response to our Savior is the giving of our very selves to him (Rom. 12:1). Our **Offering** is a real token of this (1 Cor. 16:1-2). And the **Doxology** gives expression to our new desire to praise him (Ps. 100).

As **God speaks to us**, we listen attentively with thanksgiving.

Because God is a Trinity—a Being in communion and dialogue—God is a God of **prayer**. While he was on earth, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was constantly praying to his Father, and he taught his disciples how to pray (Mt. 6:5-15; Lk. 11:1-13). And, now that Jesus has ascended into heaven, he continues to pray for his people (Heb. 7:25).

So we often pray together in the way Jesus taught us, using “The Lord’s Prayer.” We pray to God as our Father! We pray according to Jesus’ will, and in his name (Jn 14:13). We pray for all kinds of people (1 Tim. 2:1-8), especially for the work of the Gospel in the world and in the church.

Visit ascensionpc.org/sermons/the-lords-prayer to learn more about prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray...

(Elder prays)

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.*

Jesus Paid It All

Text: Elvina M. Hall • Music: John T. Grape • Public Domain

1. I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small;
2. For noth - ing good have I Where - by Thy grace to claim;
3. And now com - plete in Him, My robe, His right - eous - ness,
4. Lord, now in - deed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine a - lone,
5. When from my dy - ing bed My ran - somed soul shall rise,
6. And when be - fore the throne I stand in Him com - plete,

Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."
I'll wash my gar - ments white In the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
Close shel - tered 'neath His side, I am di - vine - ly blest.
Can change the lep - er's spots, And melt the heart of stone.
"Je - sus died my soul to save," Shall rend the vault - ed skies.
I'll lay my tro - phies down, All down at Je - sus' feet.

Refrain

Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;

Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

WORDS: Elvina M. Hall, 1865. MUSIC: "All to Christ"; John T. Grape, 1868. Public Domain.

Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus

Text & Music: Robert Lowry • Public Domain (Hymnary.org)



1. What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of
2. For my par-don this I see: noth-ing but the blood of
3. Noth - ing can for sin a - tone: noth-ing but the blood of
4. This is all my hope and peace: noth-ing but the blood of



Je - sus. What can make me whole a - gain?
Je - sus. For my clean - sing this my plea:
Je - sus. Naught of good that I have done:
Je - sus. This is all my right - eous - ness:



Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Refrain



O pre eious is the flow that makes me white as snow;



no o - ther fount I know; noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

5. Now by this I'll overcome, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Now by this I'll reach my home, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

GOSPEL READING • Luke 24:1-12

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • "The Risen Lord" (Rev. Eric Costa)

The Word of God is one of the chief Elements of our Worship. God reveals himself to us in the word of his grace (Acts 20:32) for our relationship and life with him. If he did not do this, we would have no hope of knowing him as he truly is, and no hope of our salvation.

But God loves us, so he sent his Son, the Word of God himself, into the world to make himself known to us (Jn. 1:1-18). God's Spirit inspired the written Word that we have in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). And God has called teachers to build up his people in his Word for love and service (Eph. 4:11-16).

God is a speaking God, and his Word to us is Good News (Rom. 15:4). It is a "Means of Grace" that he uses, by his Spirit, to grow us in our faith. We listen in prayerful anticipation of his good work in our lives.





THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.¹ The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic² church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE • Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

(Greet with the words, "*The peace of Christ be with you.*")

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

THE MYSTERIUM FIDEI

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

We respond to the Gospel with trust in God and in his work for us in Jesus Christ. We join with the Church throughout history and around the world as we publicly **confess faith** in Christ (Mt. 10:32).

Just as we are united to Jesus by faith, we are also united to one another in his Spirit (Eph. 2:11-22). We maintain and show our unity as we **share his peace** (Eph. 4:3).

The Lord's Supper (also called Communion or the Eucharist) is the high point of Worship. Communion with God is the whole purpose of our creation and salvation in Christ.

All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God's grace to live more faithfully for him in this world.

Please come forward after the musicians. The cup with the ribbon contains grape juice for those who do not want wine. We partake by intinction; we dip the bread into the cup.

¹ When the Creed states that Jesus "descended into hell," we understand it to mean that he suffered the holy wrath of God for the sins of his people.

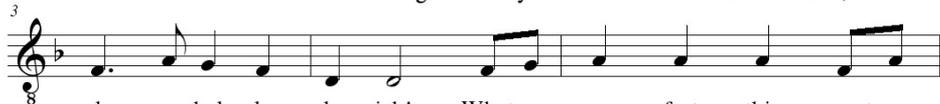
² Or "universal."

I Know That My Redeemer Lives—Glory, Hallelujah!

Text: Samuel Medley • Music: American folk hymn • Public Domain



I - know that my Re - deem - er lives,
He lives, he lives, who once was dead,
He lives to bless me with his love,
He lives all glo - ry to his name,



glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! What com - fort this sweet
glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! He lives, my ev - er -
glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah! He lives to plead for
glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah! He lives my Je - sus



sen - tence gives, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Shout
last - ing Head, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
me a - bove, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
still the same, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!



on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, glo - ry, hal - le -



lu - jah! The dead's a - live and the lost is found,



glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

The Valley May Be Dark

Text & Music: Wesley Randolph Eader • © 2014 Door of Hope

Adams shadow, it was casted.
How it covered the land.
Out from Eden it descended,
now to land on guilty hands.

The Laws of Moses, they were roaring
in the face of sinful man.
The sacrifices they would offer
could never meet its great demands.

(Refrain)

*And that valley may be dark (may be dark)
over all the earth extended,
but the love (but the love) of God is brighter (of God is brighter)
and its path cannot be bended.
Yes it hits (yes it hits) the sinner's heart (the sinner's heart),
turns their sorrows into laughter.
And with joy (and with joy) they will dance (they will dance)
up the mount of the redeemed.*

Prophets came and prophets went,
and their message was the same.
A Messiah would soon be coming
for the wandering souls to save.

(Refrain)

One last prophet came from the deserts
to announce the Lamb of God.
John would baptize with streams of Jordan,
Christ would baptize with streams of life.

(Refrain)

