

ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Genesis 1-3: "The Beginning Of The End"
March 1, 2015

Gustave Doré, "The Creation Of Light" (1866)


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 99:1-5

The LORD reigns, let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name!
Holy is he!
The King in his might loves justice.
You have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
Exalt the LORD our God;
worship at his footstool!
Holy is he!

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

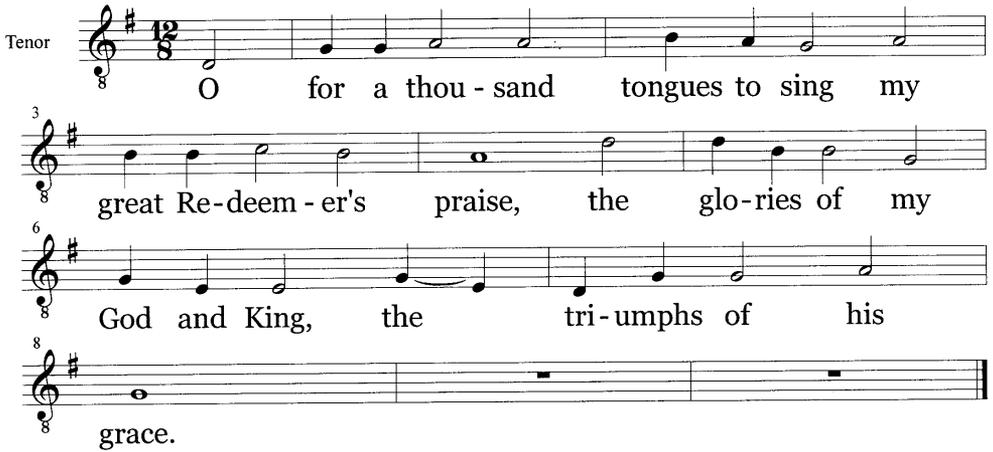
God has the first word as **he calls us to Worship**. He takes the initiative in our relationship; he makes himself known to us and moves toward us in love (1 John 4:19). By God's grace alone we are invited, called into his presence. He has brought you here to respond to his grace.

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

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Carl Glaser • Public Domain

Tenor



O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
great Re-deem - er's praise, the glo-ries of my
God and King, the tri-umphs of his
grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Father, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of your salvation now and forever. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Luke 24:46-47

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations."

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

OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

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.*

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Revelation 22:1-5

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Through Jesus, whom we confess as Lord, we give thanks and praise to the Father, calling on him who is judge of all:

Father, your kingdom come.

For all the peoples of the world; that they may know you as the God of peace, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For nations, leaders and governments; that integrity may mark all their dealings, we pray to you O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For all who labor for righteousness; that your presence and help may give them courage, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For communities torn by dissension and strife; that your forgiveness may bring them healing, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved; that consolation and peace may be theirs, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For the Church, your household and family; that she may be firm in the confession of her hope, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For our pastor, and for all who bear Christ’s name; that their lives may proclaim your glory, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep: make us perfect in all goodness to do your will and to be what you would have us be; through him to whom be glory forever, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Come, Holy Ghost

Text: Rhabanus Maurus (A.D. 776-856); chorus by Ray Mills (2005)

Music: Bruce Benedict & Ray Mills • ©2006 Cardiphonia Music, ©2006 Raymond G. Mills

5
Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest,
O com - fort - er, to Thee we cry,
and in our hearts take up Thy rest;
9 Thou heav'n - ly gift of God most high;
Come with Thy grace and heav'n-ly aid to fill our
14 Thou fount of life, and fire of love, and sweet an -
hearts which Thou hast made, to fill our
18 noint - ing from a - bove, and sweet a -
hearts which Thou hast made. Be not a -
23 noint - ting from a - bove.
fraid, _____ where you go there I am with you.

O Holy Ghost, through thee alone know we the Father and the Son;
be this our firm, unchanging creed, that thou dost from them both proceed,
that thou dost from them both proceed.

(Chorus x2)

Praise we the Lord, Father and Son, and Holy Spirit with them one;
and may the Son on us bestow all gifts that from the Spirit flow,
all gifts that from the Spirit flow.

(Chorus x2)

Rock Of Ages

Text: Augustus M. Toplady • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Rock of A - ges cleft for me, let me hide my -
Not the la - bors of my hands, can ful - fil thy
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
4 self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,
law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know,
7 cross I cling; na - ked come to thee for dress;
8 from thy ri - ven side which flowed, be of sin the
could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could
10 help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the
8 dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
13 Foun - tain fly; wash me Sav - ior or I die.
8 Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me! Let me
16 hide my - self in thee! Rock of Ag - es, cleft for
19 me! Oh my Je - sus res - cue me!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

(Chorus)

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 2:9-17

⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "A Matter Of Life And Death" (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 Heidelberg Catechism, 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him. 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 • 1 Corinthians 11:26; 5:7-8

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 glasses on your right contain grape juice for those who do not want wine.

In Sweet Communion

Text: Psalm 73 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

In sweet com - mun - ion Lord with you, I
Your coun - sel through my earth - ly way shall
Whom have I in heav'n but you? To
Though flesh and heart should faint and fail, the
To live a - part from God is death, 'tis
con - stant - ly a - bide my hand you hold with -
guide me and con - trol; and then to glo - ry
whom my thoughts as - pire and hav - ing you what
Lord will ev - er be the strength and por - tion
good His face to seek; my re - fuge is the
in your own, to keep me near your side Al - le -
af - ter - ward you will re - ceive my soul.
more on earth is there I can de - sire?
of my heart, my God e - ter - nal - ly.
liv - ing God, His praise I long to seek.
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - ia Al - le -
lu - ia, - Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - ia

It Is Well With My Soul

Text: Horatio G. Spafford • Music: Phillip P. Bliss • Public Domain

Tenor

When peace, like a riv - er, at -
Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though
My sin, O the bliss of this
tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like sea bil - lows
tri - als should come, let this blest as - sur - ance con -
glo - ri - ous thought! My sin, not in part, but the
roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
11 whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
8 say, "It is well, it is well with my soul." It is
tate, and has shed His own blood for my soul.
15 more; Praise the Lord! It is well with my soul!
well... with my soul; it is well, it is well with my
21 soul!

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

(Chorus x2)

God has the final word as he sends us out into the world with his **blessing.**

BENEDICTION • 1 Kings 8:57-58

The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways.

~

Sunday School • About 15 minutes after Worship the children will meet in the sanctuary for singing, then go to their classes. Adults will meet for sermon discussion in the fellowship hall.

Mercy Sunday • Today. On the first Sunday of each month we collect a special offering—*Alms*—during the Lord's Supper, to help meet needs in our congregation and community. After Worship we engage together in a ministry of compassion—the *Backpack Project*—providing food to children in need at W. L. Henry Elementary School (this is an easy ministry for the children of the church to participate in).

Music Group • 6:30pm Wednesdays at the Costa home. Contact: Kady Boden (kady@ascensionpc.org).

Nursery Volunteers • Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Today: Costa

Next Sunday: Manary

Refreshments Volunteers • Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com).

Today: Costa

Next Sunday: __

Regular Gatherings • For information about our meetings like home groups and bible studies for men and women, visit ascensionpc.org/calendar.



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Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro
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(Please fill out this contact card, tear it off, and drop it in the offering.)

Name(s)

Email / Phone

I am a visitor.

I want to know more about being a Christian.

I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.

Please send me the email newsletter.

Please use this info for the photo directory.