

ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
March 29, 2015

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


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 106:1-2

Praise the LORD!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,
or declare all his praise?

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...**

How Great Your Name

Text: Psalm 8 (1912 Psalter) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Lord, our Lord, your glo - rious name all your
won - drous works pro - claim; in the heav'ns
with ra - diant signs ev - er - more your glo - ry shines
How great your name Lord!
How great your name in all the earth.
How great your name Lord!
How great your name in all the earth.

Infant voices chant your praise, telling of your glorious ways;
weakest means work out your will, mighty enemies to still.
How great your name, Lord! How great your name in all the earth!
How great your name, Lord! Yours is the name of matchless worth!

Moon and stars in shining height nightly tell their makers might;
when I view the heav'ns afar, then I know how small we are.
How great your name, Lord! How great your name in all the earth!
How great your name, Lord! Yours is the name of matchless worth!

Who are we that we should share in your love and tender care?
Raised to an exalted height, crowned with honor in your sight!
How great your name, Lord! How great your name in all the earth!
How great your name, Lord! Yours is the name of matchless worth!
Yours is the name of matchless worth!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Romans 7:18-19

I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Father, we are gathered before you, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken and contrite, to confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed; we have not loved you with all our heart and soul, we have not loved you with all our mind and strength; we have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done and for the good we have left undone, so that we may hate our sin with a holy hatred. But, please Father, do not leave us in sorrow. With you, O Lord, there is forgiveness. In your mercy, restore the joy of our salvation; so that we may love you with a holy love. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

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

OFFERING • Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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.*

SCRIPTURE READING

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...

We extol you our God and King. You exist in the mystery of the Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You live independent of all that you have created. You uphold and govern your creation by your wise and holy providence. Your wisdom is unsearchable, and your thoughts are higher than ours. Your justice is absolute and perfectly fair. There is none like you, the Holy One of Israel.

Yet, as our great God and King, you show mercy and compassion to your creatures.

You dwell with the meek and lowly. Your tender mercies are over all of your works. The broken spirit and the contrite heart you do not despise. You live with us in grace as our Father.

We come to you now through our Lord Jesus Christ to plead for your care for the Church.

Strengthen the churches that proclaim your gospel. Bless the churches and church plants of the Pacific Northwest Presbytery, and especially our church here at Ascension.

We pray also for your help and blessing for our city.

Grant your help and protection to our Mayor and City Council. Please bring financial prosperity to our city. Make Hillsboro a more just and merciful and peaceful community. Help your people to benefit our city and to reflect your grace in our callings.

Father, we thank you for the mercy and kindness you have shown to us in this country.

Give us wisdom in the use of our wealth. We ask for purity in the use of our freedoms. We ask that our leaders might serve with humility, compassion and justice.

Our Savior, we appeal to your great compassion for help to those among us who are suffering.

Heal those who are sick. Encourage those who are discouraged and depressed. Provide for those who are struggling financially. Comfort those who are grieving. Give hope to those who are suffering in guilt and doubt.

Our great God, we ask you to hear us and to work in us that which is pleasing to you, as we pray in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

The Lord, My Shepherd

Text: Psalm 23 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor



The Lord my shep-herd rules my life
The Lord re-vives my fail-ing strength,
Though in a val-ley dark as death,
and gives me all I need; He and
He makes my joy com-plete; and
no e-vil makes me fear; Your
leads me by re-fresh-ing streams;
in right paths, for His names sake,
shep-herd's staff pro-tects my way,
in pas-tures green I feed. Your
He guides my fal-te-ring feet.
for you are with me there.
good-ness and your gra-cious love pur-sue me all my
days; Your house, O Lord, shall be my home, your
name my end-less praise.

While all my enemies look on, you spread a royal feast;
you fill my cup, anoint my head, and treat me as your guest.

(Chorus)

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)

SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON (Rev. Pat Roach, Reformed University Fellowship)

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 • Colossians 1:15-20

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 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. Gluten-free crackers are available on the table.

According To Thy Gracious Word

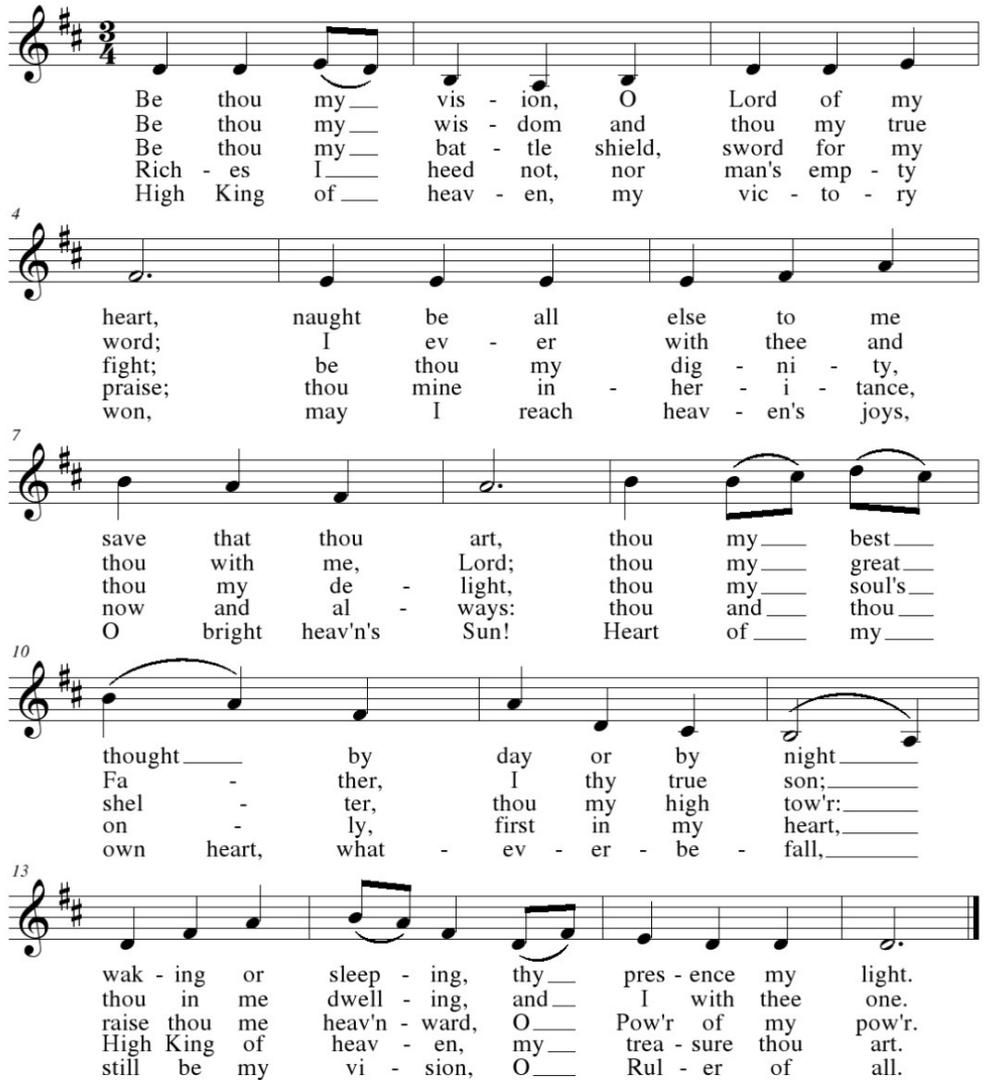
Text: James Montgomery • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Ac - cord - ing to thy gra - cious word, in
Thy bod - y giv - en for my sake, my
Geth - sem - a - ne can I for - get, or
meek hu - mil - i - ty this will I do, my
bread from hea - ven shall be; thy tes - ta - men - tal
there thy con - flict see, thine ag - o - ny and
lov - ing Lord: I will re - mem - ber thee.
cup I take, and thus re - mem - ber thee.
blood - y sweat, and not re - mem - ber thee?
When to the cross I
And when these fai - ling
turn mine eyes and rest on Cal - va - ry, O
lips grow dumb, and mind and mem - o - ry flee, when
Lamb of God - my sac - ri - fice, I must re - mem - ber
thou shalt in thy king - dom come, then Lord, re - mem - ber
thee!
me!

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Unknown, 8th Century • Music: *Slane* (Irish Folk Tune) • Public Domain



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my
Be thou my wisdom and thou my true
Be thou my battle shield, sword for my
Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty
High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry

4
heart, naught be all else to me
word; I ev - er with thee and
fight; be thou my dig - ni - ty,
praise; thou mine in - her i - tance,
won, may I reach heav - en's joys,

7
save that thou art, thou my best
thou with me, Lord; thou my great
thou my de - light, thou my soul's
now and al - ways: thou and thou
O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my

10
thought by day or by night
Fa - ther, I thy true son;
shel - ter, thou my high tow'r;
on - ly, first in my heart,
own heart, what - ev - er - be - fall,

13
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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

BENEDICTION • Ephesians 6:23-24

Peace be to you, brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

~

Rev. Pat Roach • Pat is the Western Regional Coordinator for Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org). Pat and Ashley have three children: Mary, Anna, and James.

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.

Good Friday Service • 7pm Fri., Apr. 3 in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Breakfast • 8:30am Sun., Apr. 5. See the email newsletter for a link to the food signup sheet, or contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Mercy Sunday • Apr. 5. 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). To sign up to bring food supplies, contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Women's Study • In April, the women will begin a study of Tod Bolsinger's book, *It Takes A Church To Raise A Christian* (the same book being discussed in the home group meeting at the Costa home). Join us at 9am Thursdays at the home of Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany St., Tigard). Contact Larissa Friesen (larissaelaborates@gmail.com) if you are interested!

Church Campout • Aug. 28-30 (Friday through Sunday) at Oxbow Regional Park in Gresham on the Sandy River. *More details forthcoming...*

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: Friesen Next Sunday: Pope

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

Today: _____ Next Sunday: (Easter Breakfast)

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



Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from
The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®),
copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro
ascensionpc.org • [facebook.com/ascensionpc](https://www.facebook.com/ascensionpc) • twitter.com/ascensionpc

(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.