

ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Genesis 1-3: "The Beginning Of The End"
April 12, 2015

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


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 107:1-2

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble.

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

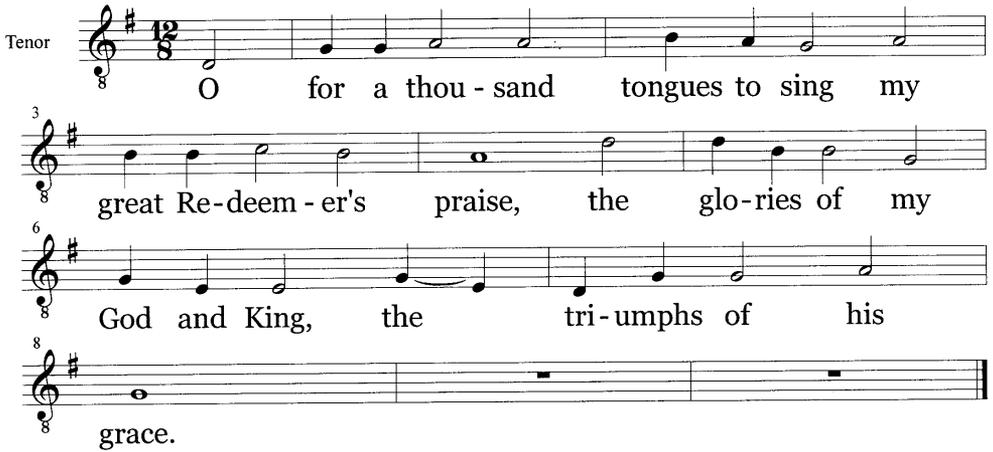
God has the first word as **he calls us to Worship**. He takes the initiative in our relationship; he makes himself known to us and moves toward us in love (1 John 4:19). By God's grace alone we are invited, called into his presence. He has brought you here to respond to his grace.

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 • 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

CONFESSION OF SIN • Daniel 9

O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets. To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness. We do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.

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

OFFERING • Exodus 23:19

The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your 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.*

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.

GOSPEL READING • Luke 23:32-43

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Text: Matthew 6:9-13 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



Our fath-er in hea-ven hal-low-ed be ___ your name,



Your king-dom come, your will be done on earth as it is ___ in



hea - ven. Give us to - day our dail - y



bread, and for-give all our tres-pass-es as we for-give those who



tres-pass a-gainst us. And lead us not in-to temp-



ta - tion, but de - liv - er us ___ from the e - vil one. For



yours ___ in the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo - ry ___ for-



ev - er - more. A - men. _____

Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right

Text: Samuel Rodigas • Music: Severus Gastorius, arr. Chip Ueltschey

What - e'er my God or - dains is right: his
What - e'er my God or - dains is right: he
What - e'er my God or - dains is right: though
What - e'er my God or - dains is right: here

ho - ly will a - bid - eth: I
ne - ver will de - ceive me; he
now this cup, in drink - ing, may
shall my stand be tak - en; though

will be still what - e'er he doth, and
leads me by the pro - per path; I
bit - ter seem to my faint heart, I
sor - row, need, or death be mine, yet

fol - low where he guid - eth. He
know he will not leave me. I
take it, all un - shrink - ing. My
am I not for - sak - en. My

is my God; though dark my road, he
take, con - tent, what he hath sent; his
God is true; each morn a - new sweet
Fa - ther's care is round me there; he

holds me that I shall not fall: where -
hand can turn my grieFs a - way, and
com - fort yet shall fill my heart, and
holds me that I shall not fall: and

fore to him I leave it all.
pa - tient - ly I wait his day.
pain and sor - row shall de - part.
so to him I leave it all.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 3:6-13

⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Word of the Lord.

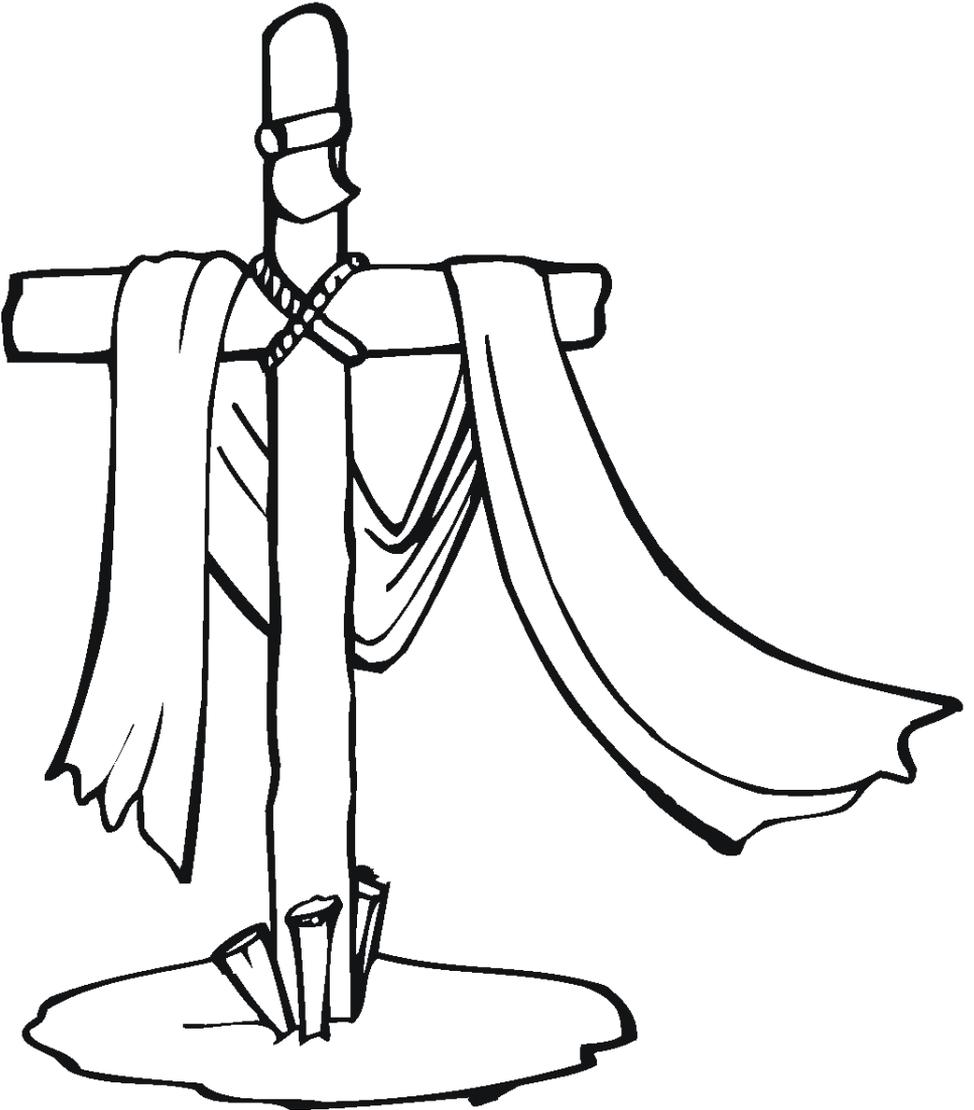
Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "Disintegration" (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 Nicene Creed

What do you believe?

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

¹ Or, “universal.”

I Hunger And I Thirst

Text: John S. B. Monsell, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl

Used by Permission

Tenor

I hun-ger and I thirst;
Thou bruised and bro-ken Bread,
Thou true life-giv-ing Vine,
Rough paths my feet have trod,
Je-sus my man-na be; ye liv-ing wa-ters,
my life-long needs sup-ply; as liv-ing souls are
let me Thy sweet-ness prove; re-new my life with
since first their course be-gan; feed me, thou Bread of
burst, out of the rock for me. I
fed, O feed me or I die. I
Thine, re-fresh my soul with love. I
God, help me thou Son of Man. I
hun-ger and I thirst; Je-sus my man-na be!
Je-sus Christ the bread of
life, I hun-ger for you Lord!

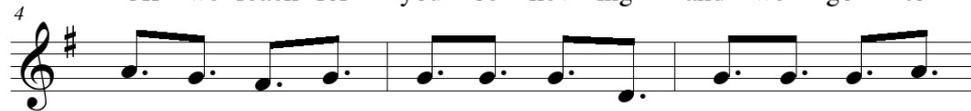
For still the desert lies my thirsting soul before;
O living waters rise within me evermore.
I hunger and I thirst, Jesus my manna be!
Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!
Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!

As We Walk Along Beside You

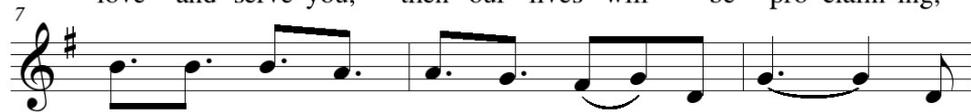
Text: Michael A. Perry (Luke 24) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



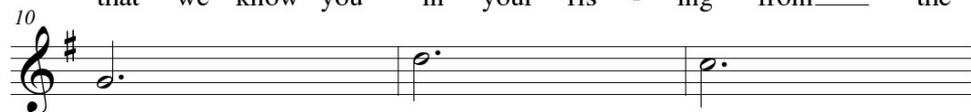
As we walk a - long be - side you and we hear you
As we ask that you stay with us, and we watch what
As we reach for you be - liev - ing and we go to



4 speak of mer - cy then it seems our hearts are burn - ing
you are do - ing then our eyes be - gin to o - pen,
love and serve you, then our lives will be pro-claim-ing,



7 for we find you in the shar - ing of _____ the
for we see you in the break - ing of _____ the
that we know you in your ris - ing from _____ the



10 word. A - - - le - - -
bread. _____
dead. _____



13 lu _____ ia. _____ A - -



16 le - - - lu - ia. _____

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

BENEDICTION • John 14:27

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

~

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.

Gospel-Centered Life Home Group • Today after Worship and Sunday School, at the home of Joe and Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany, Tigard). Join us for lunch, prayer, and conversation about the centrality of the Gospel in our lives and relationships. Children are welcome.

Church Campout • Aug. 28-30 (Friday through Sunday) at Oxbow Regional Park in Gresham on the Sandy River. Contact Tim Sery to reserve a spot.

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

Today: Friesen Next Sunday: Childers

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

Today: Hatch Next Sunday: Sery

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
ascensionpc.org • 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.