



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Genesis 1-3: "The Beginning Of The End"
April 26, 2015

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


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD!

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.

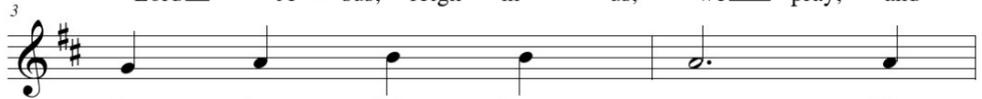
The Triune God is a singing God (Zeph. 3:14-17)! So it is fitting to respond to him with **singing...**

The People That In Darkness Sat

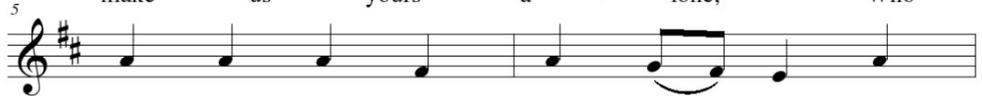
Text: Paraphrase of Isaiah 9:2-7 • Music: John Morison • Public Domain



The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat a
To hail you, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, the
To us the Child of hope is born, to
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the
His righ - teous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall
Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and



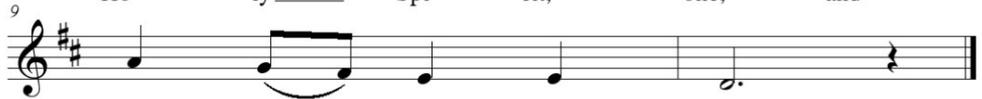
glo - rious light have seen; The
gath - 'ring na - tions come; They
us the Son is giv'n, And
Ev - er - last - ing Lord, The
o - ver all ex - tend; On
make us yours a - lone, Who



light has shined on them who long in
joy as when the reap - ers bear their
on his shoul - der ev - er rests all
Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the
judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his
with the Fa - ther ev - er are and



shades of death have been, in
har - vest trea - sures home, their
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all
God by all a - dored, the
reign shall have no end, his
Ho - ly Spi - rit, one, and



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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 1:19-20

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I thank you, my dear God, that I have learned not to begin faith by my own efforts, nor to attempt to destroy my sin with my own repentance. I might do this before other people and be acceptable to the world and its judges. But with you, O God, there is an eternal wrath which I cannot satisfy, and before it I would despair. Therefore I thank you that Another has seized and carried my sins and has made atonement for them. With joy I wish to believe this. It seems so very right and comforting to me. But I cannot believe it by myself, and I find no power in me to convince myself. I cannot comprehend it as I ought. Lord, lead me, help me. Give me the power and gift to believe. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 1:21-22

You, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

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

OFFERING • Malachi 3:10

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”

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 • Romans 8:18-22

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...

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to reign in justice as our King:

Cause our President and Congress to love justice and mercy. Help our Mayor and City Council to increase the peace of the city.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy the works of the devil:

Restrain the wickedness in our city by your Law. Destroy the wickedness in our own hearts by your Spirit. Protect us from the temptations, deceit and accusations of the devil.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to bring us peace with God:

Bring peace between nations in Your world; help Ascension to live in your peace together; come again soon to fully establish your peace on earth.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to seek and save that which was lost:

Show mercy to our friends who do not yet know you; deepen our faith in the Gospel of grace.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy death and to bring life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Comfort those who are suffering in grief, in poverty, in sickness, in injustice.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to sympathize with our weaknesses:

Please hear us as we bring you our specific requests. (Silent prayer)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray now in the words you 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 Sands Of Time Are Sinking

Text: Anne R. Cousin • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

The sands of time are sink-ing, - the dawn of heav-en -
The King there in His beau - ty with - out a veil is -
breaks, the sum - mer morn I've sighed for, the
seen; it were a well spent jour - ney though
fair sweet morn a - wakes; so dark hath been the
se - ven deaths lay be - tween: the Lamb with His fair
mid - night, but day - spring is at hand, and glo - ry,
ar - my doth on Mount Zi - on stand,
glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land! And glo - ry,
glo - ry, dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land!

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of seven staves of music in G-clef, 8/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a common time signature (C), which changes to 8/8 for the rest of the piece. The lyrics are: 'The sands of time are sink-ing, - the dawn of heav-en - The King there in His beau - ty with - out a veil is - breaks, the sum - mer morn I've sighed for, the seen; it were a well spent jour - ney though fair sweet morn a - wakes; so dark hath been the se - ven deaths lay be - tween: the Lamb with His fair mid - night, but day - spring is at hand, and glo - ry, ar - my doth on Mount Zi - on stand, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land! And glo - ry, glo - ry, dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land!'. The score includes bar numbers 4, 7, 8, 10, 14, and 18.

O Christ, he is the fountain, the deep sweet well of love!
The streams of earth I've tasted, more deep I'll drink above;
there to an ocean fullness his mercy doth expand,

(Chorus)

The bride eyes not her garment, but eyes her bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory, but on my King of grace;
not on the crown he gifteth, but on his pierced hands:

(Chorus)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Music: William M. Runyan • Lyric: Thomas O. Chisolm • ©1923/1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Tenor

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev-er wilt
be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
Morning by morn-ing new mercies I see: all I have
need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed, Great is thy faith-ful-ness,
Lord, un - - - to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten-thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 3:16-19

- 16 To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”
- 17 And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

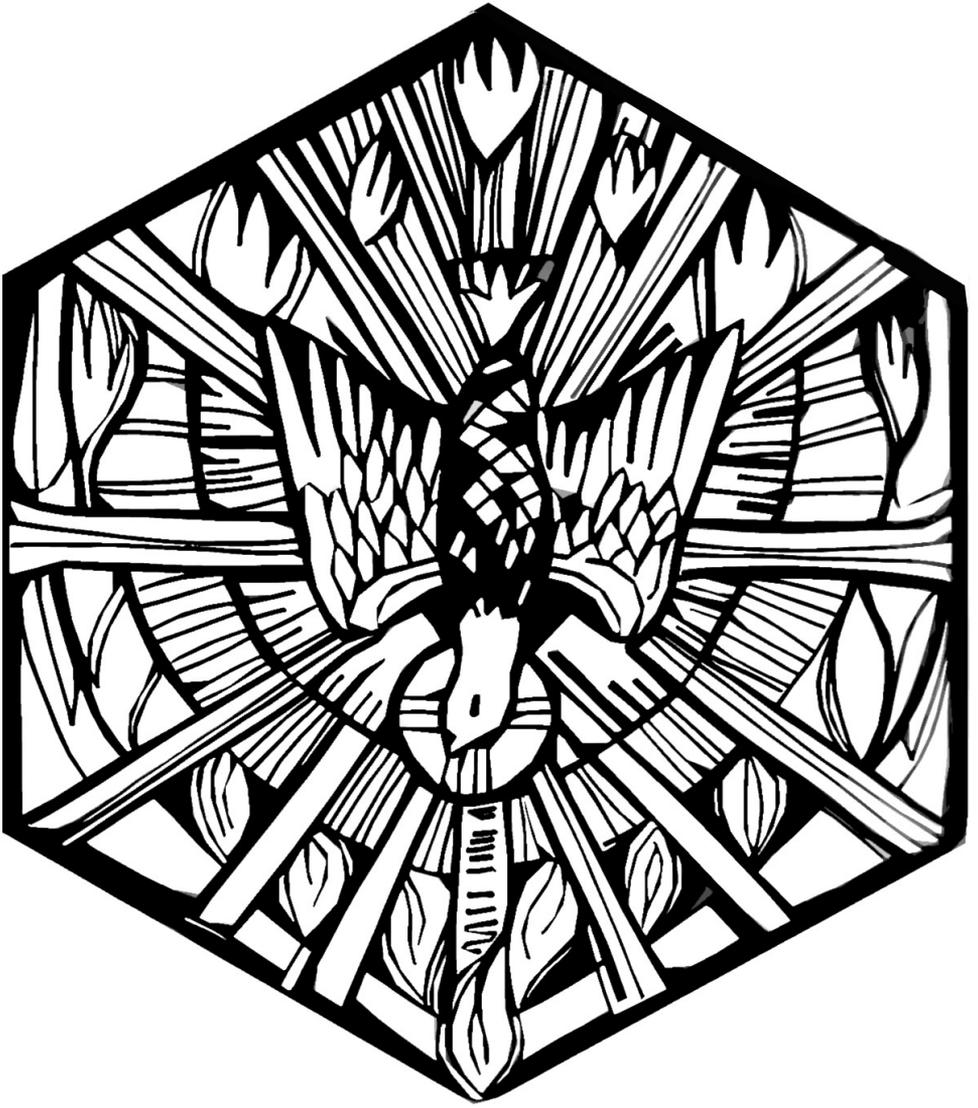
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “The Curse And The Promise (2)” (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

What do you believe?

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 • 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. There are gluten-free crackers on the table. An Elder is available in the back for prayer (James 5:13-16).

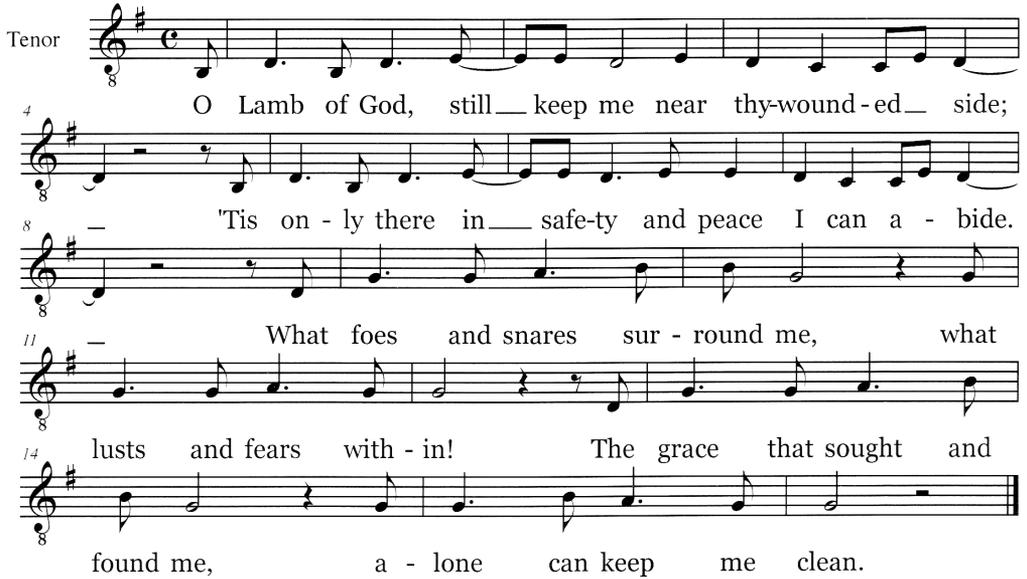
¹ When the Creed states that Jesus "descended into hell," we understand it to mean that he suffered the holy wrath of God for the sins of his people.

² Or, "universal."

O Lamb Of God, Still Keep Me

Text: James George Deck • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Used by Permission

Tenor



O Lamb of God, still keep me near thy-wound-ed side;
'Tis on-ly there in safe-ty and peace I can a-bide.
What foes and snares sur-round me, what
lusts and fears with-in! The grace that sought and
found me, a-lone can keep me clean.

'Tis only in thee hiding, I feel myself secure;
'tis only in thee abiding, the conflict can endure;
thine arm the victory gaineth, o'er every hateful foe;
thy love my heart sustaineth in all its cares and woes.

Soon shall my eyes behold thee with rapture, face to face;
one half hath not been told me of all thy pow'r and grace:
thy beauty, Lord, and glory, the wonders of thy love,
shall be the endless story of all the saints above.

Glorify Your Name

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Fa - ther we love you we wor - ship and a - dore you,
5 glo - ri - fy your name in all the earth, glo -
9 ri - fy your name, glo - ri - fy
14 your name, glo - ri - fy your name
19 in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

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

BENEDICTION • Psalm 22:26

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

~

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.

Home Group • Today after Worship and Sunday School, at the home of Eric and Jerilee Costa (1890 SE Maple St., Hillsboro). Join us for lunch, prayer, and conversation about Tod Bolsinger's book, *It Takes A Church To Raise A Christian*. Children are welcome.

Mercy Sunday • May 3. 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).

Moms' Group • Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

- 10am Tue., May 5 at Sara Sery's house (17290 SW Seiffert Rd., Sherwood). Lunch provided.

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: Costa Next Sunday: Sery

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

Today: ____ Next Sunday: Costa

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.