



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

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


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 118:1-4

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

Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

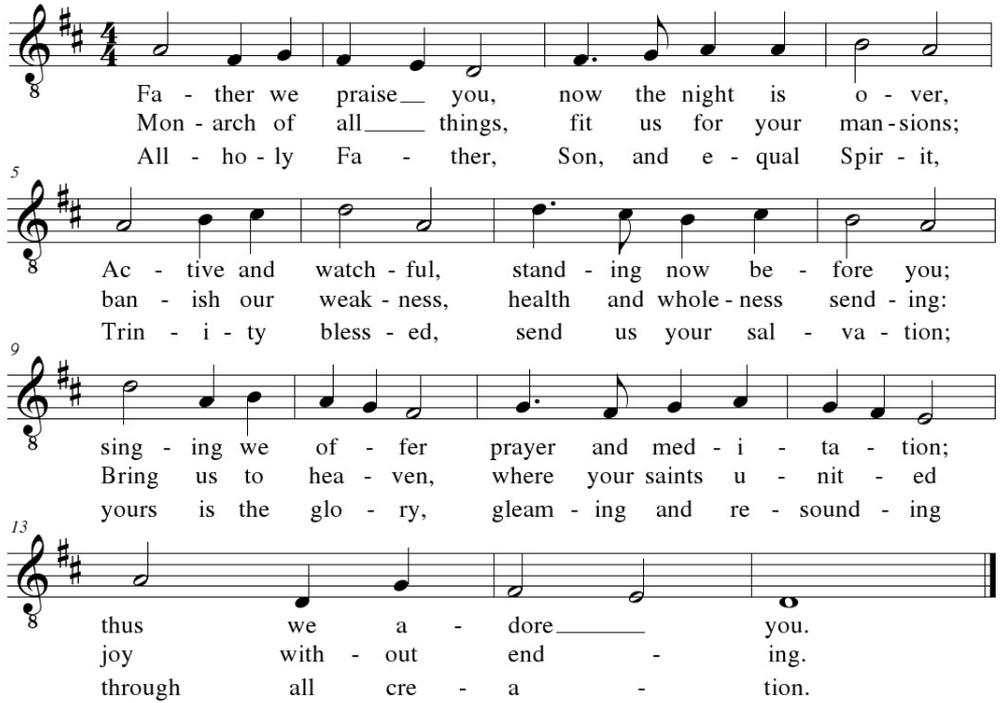
The flame symbolizes the holy presence of God and the light of his Gospel among us.

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...**

Father, We Praise You

Text: Gregory I (540-604) • Music: *Christe Sanctorum*, French Church Melody (1681) • Public Domain



8 Fa - ther we praise you, now the night is o - ver,
Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions;
All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it,

5
8 Ac - tive and watch - ful, stand - ing now be - fore you;
ban - ish our weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing:
Trin - i - ty bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion;

9
8 sing - ing we of - fer prayer and med - i - ta - tion;
Bring us to hea - ven, where your saints u - nit - ed
yours is the glo - ry, gleam - ing and re - sound - ing

13
8 thus we a - dore you.
joy with - out end - ing.
through all cre - a - tion.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Timothy 1:5

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, no day of my life has passed that has not proved me guilty in your sight. Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart; praise has been often praiseless sound; my best services are filthy rags. Blessed Jesus, let me find a shelter in your appeasing wounds. Though my sins rise to heaven your merits soar above them; though unrighteousness weighs me down to hell, your righteousness exalts me to your throne. All things in me call for my rejection, all things in you plead my acceptance. I appeal from the throne of perfect justice to your throne of boundless grace, grant me to hear your voice assuring me: that by your stripes I am healed, that you were bruised for my iniquities, that you have been made sin for me that I might be righteous in you, that my grievous sins, my manifold sins, are all forgiven, buried in the ocean of your concealing blood. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Timothy 1:15

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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 21:22 – 22:5

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...

Our Father in Heaven, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. You did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all; how will you not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

We thank you for your daily provision for our physical needs. We thank you for your care for our souls. We thank you for your mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord Jesus, You rule over all things for the sake of your Church. You are at the right hand of God interceding for us constantly. Nothing can separate us from your love.

Increase the peace and purity and unity of this congregation. Strengthen the church of Christ in our city. Protect and stand with our brothers and sisters everywhere who are being persecuted for their faith.

Our Savior, you invite the weary and burdened to come to you and find rest. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. You are gentle and humble in heart.

Heal those who are sick. Give your grace and peace to those facing imminent death and to those who care for them. Comfort those who are grieving. Sit closely with those who are lonely. Provide for those who are seeking work. Free those who are struggling with enslaving sins.

Our great God, we hear your promise that the knowledge of your glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Increase the spread of the Gospel in and through our city, to the world. We ask you to extend your mercy to our friends and loved ones.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen.

How Firm A Foundation

Text: Rippon's *Selection of Hymns* (1787) • Music: Trad. American Melody • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Firm A Foundation'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 4, 8, 12, and 16. The lyrics are: 'How firm a foundation, you saints of the "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - Lord, is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent mayed; for I am your God, and will still give you word! What more can He say than to you He has aid; I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to said, to you who for refuge to Je - sus have stand, up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent fled? hand.'

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design,
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.”

I Lay My Sins On Jesus

Text: Horatius Bonar (1843) • Music: Bartholomaeus Gesius (1605) • Public Domain



I lay my sins _____ on Je - sus, the
I lay my needs _____ on Je - sus; all
I rest my soul _____ on Je - sus, this
I long to be _____ like Je - sus, meek,



spot - less Lamb _____ of God; he bears them all, _____ and
ful - ness dwells _____ in him; he heals all my _____ dis -
wea - ry soul _____ of mine; his right hand me _____ em -
lov - ing, low - ly, mild; I long to be _____ like



frees us from the ac - curs - ed load: I
eas - es, he doth my soul _____ re - deem: I
brac - es, I on his breast _____ re - cline. I
Je - sus, the Fa - ther's ho - ly child: I



bring my guilt _____ to _____ Je - sus to wash _____ my crim - son
lay my griefs _____ on _____ Je - sus, my bur - dens and _____ my
love the name _____ of _____ Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, _____ the
long to be _____ with _____ Je - sus a - mid _____ the heav'n - ly



stains white in his blood _____ most pre - cious, till
cares; he from them all _____ re - leas - es, he
Lord; like fra - grance on _____ the breez - es his
throng, to sing with saints _____ his prais - es, to



not a spot _____ re - mains.
all my sor - rows shares.
name a - broad _____ is poured.
learn the an - gels' song.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 3:20-24

²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—"

²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

The Word of the Lord.

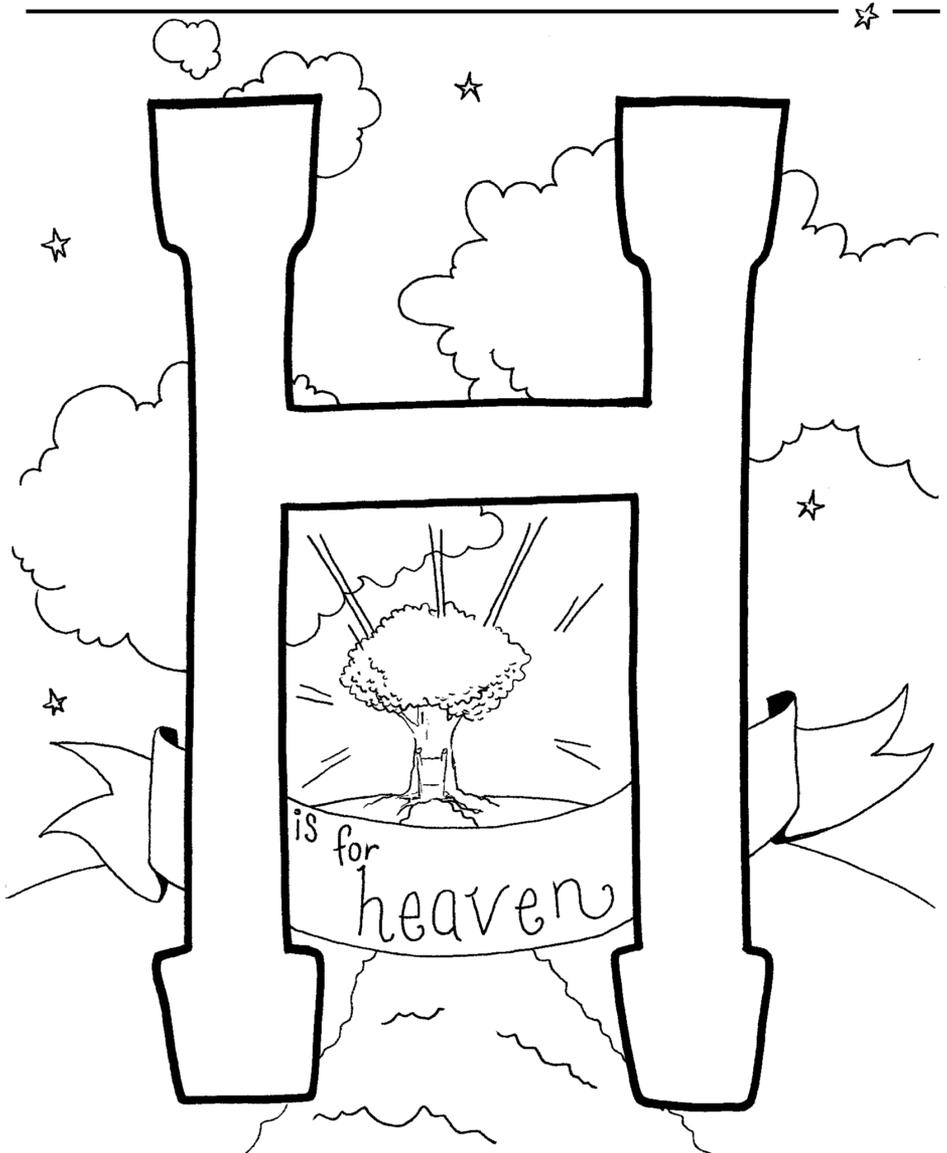
Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "The Beginning Of The End" (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.



Mandy Grace '12

ministry-to-children.com



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • Philippians 2:6-11

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

I believe that Jesus Christ, being God, made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born a man. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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).

A Sinner's Cry

Text: Samuel Medley • Music: Matthew Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Hear, grac-ious God, a sin - er's_ cry; for
To Thee I come a sin - er__ poor, and
5 To Thee I come a sin - er__ weak, and
8 I have no - where else__ to__ fly. My
wait for mer - cy at__ Thy__ door. In -
9 scarce know how to pray or__ speak. From
8 hope, my on - ly hope's in Thee,__ O__
deed I've no - where else__ to flee,__ O__
13 fear and weak-ness set__ me free,__ O__
8 God, be mer - ci-ful to me. O God, be__
God, be mer - ci-ful to me.
18 God, be mer - ci-ful to me.
8 mer - ci-ful to me! On You alone I rest my
23 plea; I have no o-ther place to flee,__
28 O__ God, be__ mer - ci-ful to me.

To thee I come, a sinner vile;
upon me, Lord, vouchsafe to smile;
mercy, through blood, I make my plea,
O God, be merciful to me.

(Chorus)

To thee I come, a sinner great;
and well thou knowest all my state.
Yet full forgiveness is with thee,
O God, be merciful to me.

(Chorus)

O God, be merciful to me.

Let Us Break Bread Together

Text: African-American Spiritual • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

5
8
9
8
13
8
17
8
22

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

8
13
17
22

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the Lord - of
life, When I fall on my knees, with my face to the Lord -
of life, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

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

BENEDICTION • Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

~

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).

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: Sery Next Sunday: Friesen

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

Today: Costa Next Sunday: Hamilton

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](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.