

"The central question for all sincere seekers is the question about the manner of God's kingship, of how it is manifested, so that it may be 'seen' and 'entered into'—that is, experienced as a reality from within... To experience the kingship of God as a present reality is not simply a matter of illumination; it is a matter of regeneration. It is not just new seeing but new being."

Lesslie Newbigin

"Jesus *the wise Teacher* is not the person Jesus will "teach" in [his sermon to Nicodemus]... If the content of believers' faith does not graduate from Teacher to Savior there is no birth from above."

Frederick Bruner

ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship on the Lord's Day
October 30, 2016

Reformation Sunday



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 64:10

Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD
and take refuge in him!

Let all the upright in heart exult!

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text & Music: Martin Luther (1529) • Public Domain

Alto

A might - y for - tress is our God, a
bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a -
mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For
still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his
craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el
hate, on earth is not his e - qual.

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his Name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us:
the Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
his kingdom is forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

CONFESSION OF SIN

*Holy Father, Son, and Spirit,
we have lived in open rebellion
against your gracious rule.*

*Please, Lord Jesus, may we find
our redemption in your passion,
the absolution of our guilt in your condemnation,
the cancellation of our curse in your cross,
the satisfaction for our sins in your sacrifice,
our purification in your blood,
reconciliation to God in your descent into hell,
the death of our flesh in your tomb,
immortality in your resurrection,
our inheritance in your ascension.*

We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 10:8

"Freely you have received. Freely give."

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ezekiel 36:22-27

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."

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...

O Lord, we cry out to you for the Church:

Particularly for our sister churches in the Pacific Northwest Presbytery.

O Lord, we cry out to you for all the people of the earth:

We pray for those who do not know you; we pray that your gospel would run in our city; we pray that your fame and glory would spread here and throughout the world.

O Lord, we cry out to you for our own nation:

Please give our President humility, wisdom, strength and trust in you. Please bless our Governor and our Mayor; please bring prosperity and peace to our city through your gospel.

O Lord, we cry out to you for the poor and suffering of our community:

We pray for those who are living on the streets. We pray for those who are discouraged and suffering in depression. We pray for those who are struggling financially. We pray for those who are sick or facing imminent death and for those who care for them.

O Lord we cry out to you with our individual concerns and needs...

(Silent prayer)

All of these things we ask of you in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying:

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.

In Christ Alone

Text & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend • ©2001 Thankyou Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Christ Alone'. It consists of eight staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The score includes measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 14. The lyrics describe the power of Christ's sacrifice and the hope it brings to the believer.

In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, ful - ness of
3 There in the ground His bo - dy lay, light of the
light, my strength, — my song; — This Cor - ner -
God in help - less babe! — This gift of
5 world by dark - ness slain: — Then burst - ing
stone, this so - lid ground. firm through the
love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the
7 forth in glor - ious day up from the
fier - cest drought — and storm. — What heights of
ones he came — to save: — 'Till on that
9 grave He rose — a - gain! — And as He
love, what depths of peace — when fears are
cross as Je - sus died, — the wrath of
11 stands in vic - to - ry — sin's curse has
stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sa - tis - fied. — For ev - 'ry sin on Him was
14 lost its grip on me, — for I am His and He is
all, here in the love of Christ — I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ — I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood — of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
'till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

Victory In The Lamb

Text & Music: Wesley Randolph Eader • © 2014 Door of Hope

He will clothe the poor with crowns
in the kingdom he calls theirs.
He will raise them to the halls of heaven
and release their earthly cares.

And the hard times, they will come.
And the black clouds, they will break.
But his riches come with the morning sun
and they grow green fields of grace.

(Chorus)

*So let all condemnation cease!
Let guilt have no more claim!
Let the devil lose all dominion!
For the Lamb of God he came!
And the Lamb of God was slain!
And the Lamb of God was raised!*

We will fix our wandering eyes
on the wonders of our Lord.
By his sacred stripes we have been healed,
through his wounds our joys supplied.

(Chorus)

Now the strong ones and the weak
are the same under his blood.
For empty-handed all must come
to receive his endless love.

(Chorus)

GOSPEL READING • John 3:1-15

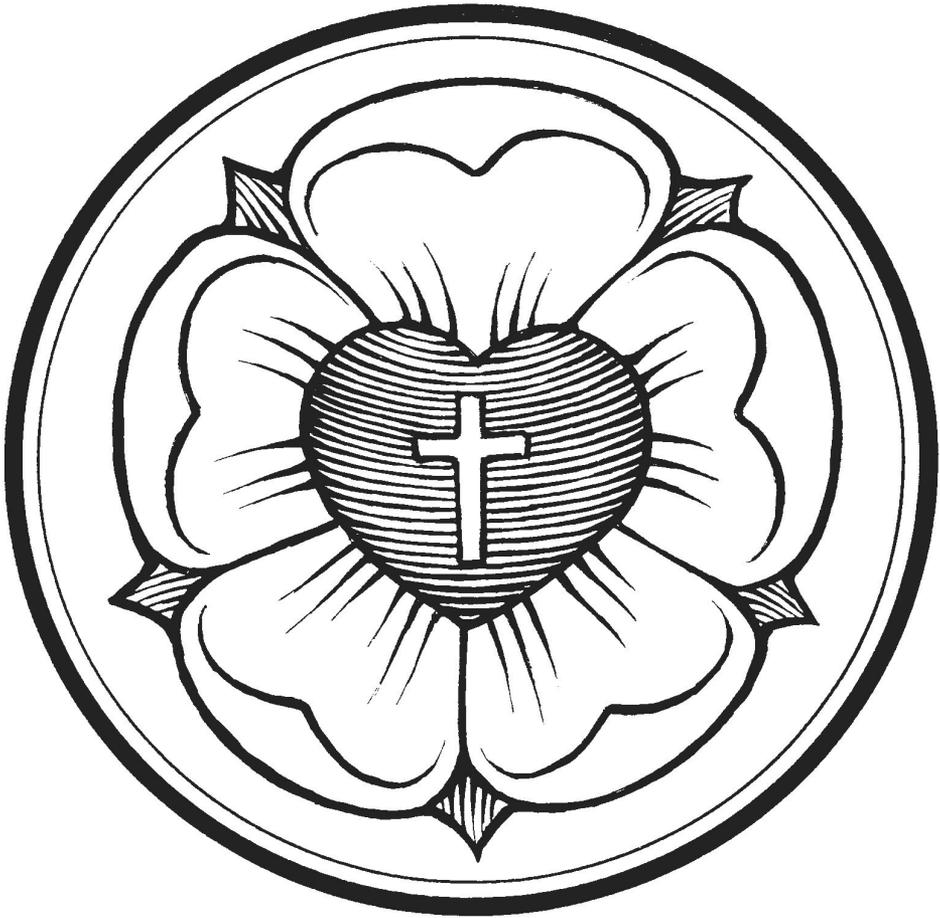
Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Born of the Spirit” (Rev. Eric Costa)





THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 60

How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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 one another 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

(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].)

Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands

Text: Martin Luther • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when
Here the true pas - chal Lamb we see, whom
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to
Then let us feast this ho - ly day on

3
our of - fens - es giv - en; but now at God's right
life and death con - tend - ed. The vic - tor - y re -
God so free - ly gave us. He died on the ac -
which the Lord in - vites us. Christ is Him - self the
6
Christ, the bread of hea - ven. The Word of grace has

hand He stands and brings us life from heav - en.
mained with life; the reign of death was end - ed.
curs - ed tree, so strong His love to save us.
joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
9
purged a - way the old and e - vil leav - en.

There - fore let us joy - ful be, and sing to God right
Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says His death has swal - lowed
See His blood now marks our door; faith points to it death
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine
12
Christ a - lone our souls will feed; he is our meat and

thank - ful - ly loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
up our death; its sting is lost for - ev - er.
pass - es o'er, and Sa - tan can - not harm us.
to our hearts; the night of sin is end - ed.
17
drink in - deed; Faith lives u - pon no oth - er!

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
23
lu - ia!

Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4th Century), Martin Luther (16th Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 Sa - vior of the na - tions come,
Not by hu - man pow'r or seed
Mar - y then was found with child,
Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,

3
8 show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der
did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the
still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored
passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his

6
8 all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.
Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.
her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace.
Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.

9
8 Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____

15
8 In the high - - - est!

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'Sa - vior of the na - tions come, Not by hu - man pow'r or seed Mar - y then was found with child, Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,'. The second system starts with a measure rest of 3 measures, then continues with the lyrics: 'show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his'. The third system continues with: 'all the earth, that our God chose such a birth. Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh. her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace. Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.' The fourth system features a repeat sign followed by three measures of 'Glo - ri - a! ____'. The fifth system starts with a measure rest of 15 measures, then continues with 'In the high - - - est!'.

Since the star at Bethlehem brought new light to earth again,
may our faith shine bright each day; faithful God, keep sin away.

Christ in glory, intercede for your creature's suff'ring need.

Let your resurrecting pow'r soon complete the vict'ry hour.

(Chorus)

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing, praise to Christ our newborn King!

With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come!

(Chorus x2)

BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:5

May the Lord direct your hearts
to the love of God
and to the steadfastness of Christ.

~

Remember: every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christ-centered community and life of the church!

Photo Directory • Bill Duncan will be taking pictures the next few Sundays (weather permitting!). If you would like your picture taken, see Bill. If you need your information added to or updated in the directory, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

Sunday School • After Worship, and some time for fellowship and coffee, join us for Sunday School. Kids will meet in the sanctuary before going to their classes. Adults will meet in the fellowship hall for sermon discussion (young children are welcome to accompany their parents).

New Women's Study • 7pm Tue., Nov. 1 at the home of Diane Childers (685 S. 20th Ave., Cornelius).

Monthly Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Nov. 5 at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street). Each time we meet we discuss a phrase of the Apostles' Creed. This time: "Crucified, Dead, and Buried." (Keep an eye on applyingthegospel.com this week for the blog post we'll discuss together.) Bring a friend! RSVP and let Eric know if you can help by bringing part of the meal (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

Mercy Sunday • Nov. 6... 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 a great opportunity to talk with our kids about generosity and service as a regular part of our lives as Christians. To sign up to bring food supplies, contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Serve a Meal • The teachers at W. L. Henry have a couple of very busy days of parent-teacher conferences coming up, and have asked if our church can provide dinner for them on-site. Everyone interested in helping prepare and/or serve the meal for about 20 teachers on Wed., Nov. 9, please contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

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

Nursery Volunteers

Today: Hamilton Next Sunday: Jaques

Refreshments Volunteers

(Contact: Nicole Hamilton, neh.hamilton@gmail.com)

Today: Hamilton Next Sunday: Whipple



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

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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.