

“The glory of God is his actual presence in such a manner that it needs no other witness. This glory is present in Jesus precisely because he neither seeks nor receives glory from men, makes no claim for himself, but is the totally humble, obedient, self-effacing, and therefore transparent bearer of the glory of the Father in whose name alone he has come. As long as men and women seek to be something in the eyes of one another they are stopped from recognizing that the only true glory is to be found in total self-emptying.”

Lesslie Newbigin



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship on the Lord's Day
February 26, 2017



THE WORD

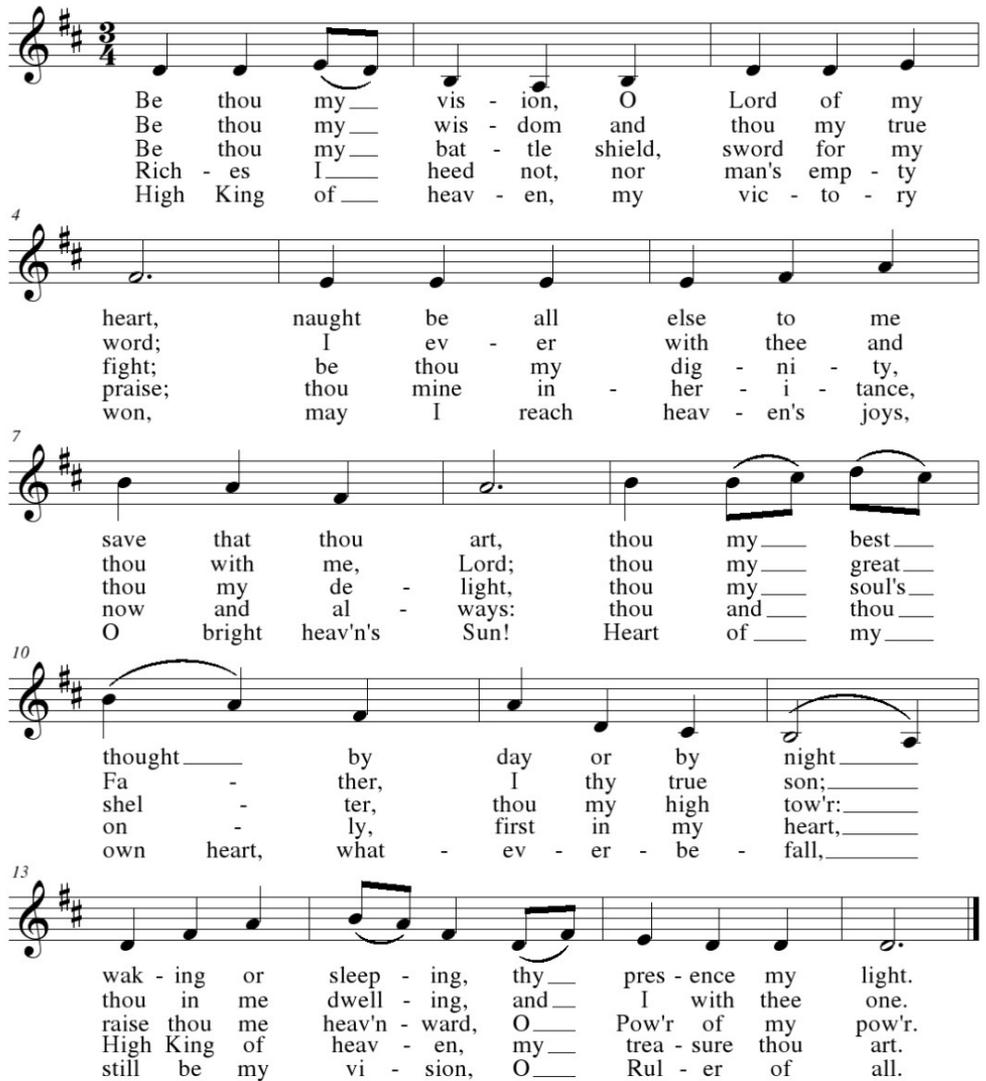


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 105:1-3

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

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 wis - dom and thou my true
Be thou my bat - tle 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.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 3:12-13

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, you sent Jesus to be for us the way, the truth, and the life. We confess that we have turned aside to our own way, have ignored your precious word, and have sought to find happiness outside of your will and apart from you. In your mercy forgive us. We would flee to no other refuge, build on no other foundation, receive from no other fullness, rest in no other relief; but alone entrust ourselves to Jesus' saving power, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 2:17

He had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:2-4

“When you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

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 • Deuteronomy 18:15-22

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for

them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.' ²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'—²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him."

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...

Holy Father, our great God, we praise you for your perfect holiness.

We thank you for not sparing your own Son but giving him up for us all. We love you for adopting us as your children by your grace. We trust you to use every circumstance for our good as your people.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for taking our condemnation on yourself.

We love you for the pity you showed in rescuing us from our sins. We rest in you because you are constantly interceding for us with the Father. We thank you that absolutely nothing can separate us from your love.

Holy Spirit of God, we praise you for giving us new life and living with us constantly.

We thank you for the war you wage against sin in our lives. We delight in the assurance you give us that we are God's sons in Christ. We love you for searching our hearts and helping us in our weakness.

Hear us as we pray in the words of the Lord himself, 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.

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)

Rock Of Ages

Text: Augustus M. Toplady • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Rock of A - ges cleft for me, let me hide my -
Not the la - bors of my hands, can ful - fil thy
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
4 self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,
law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know,
7 cross I cling; na - ked come to thee for dress;
8 from thy ri - ven side which flowed, be of sin the
could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could
10 help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the
8 dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
13 Foun - tain fly; wash me Sav - ior or I die.
8 Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me! Let me
16 hide my - self in thee! Rock of Ag - es, cleft for
19 me! Oh my Je - sus res - cue me!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

(Chorus)

GOSPEL READING • John 5:30-37

"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³¹ If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ³³ You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, ³⁸ and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive glory from people. ⁴² But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • "How Can We Believe?" (Rev. Eric Costa)





THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him. 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 for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands

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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, and 23 indicating the start of new lines of text. The lyrics describe the death of Christ and the resurrection, ending with a final 'Al-le-lu-ia!'.

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
3 Then let us feast this ho - ly day on
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.
9 joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
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
12 See His blood now marks our door; faith points to it death
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine
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!

Love Me To The End

Text: Samuel Medley • Music: Jeff Koonce • ©2006 Red Mountain Music

Tenor



8 A beg - ar poor, at mer - cy's door, lies
A wick - ed heart is no small part, of
3 My stub - born will op - pos - es still, Thy
such a wretch as I; Thou know'st my need is
my dist - ress and shame; Let sover - eign grace its
6 wise and ho - ly hand; Thy spi - rit send to
great in - deed, Lord hear me when I cry.
crimes ef - face, through Jes - sus' bles - sed name.
9 make it bend, to Thy su - preme com - mand.
8 With guilt be - set and deep in debt, for
My dark - ened mind I dail - y find, is
11 Af - fect - ions wild by sin def - iled, oft
pard - on Lord, I pray; O let Thy love suf -
prone to go as - tray; Lord on it shine with
14 hur - ry me a - way; Lord, bring them home nor
fi - cient prove, to take my sins a - way.
light di - vine, and guide it in Thy way.
let them roam, from Christ the Li - ving Way.

Before thy face I've told my case; Lord help and mercy send;
pity my soul and make me whole, and love me to the end.

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.

~

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

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).

Home Group • The home group discussing Paul Tripp's book, *Parenting*, will meet today at the home of Joe & Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany Street, Tigard).

Monthly Men's Breakfast • This usually takes place on the first Saturday of each month, but this month we'll hold it during the men's retreat (Mar. 17-19, see below).

Mercy Sunday • Mar. 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 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).

School Garden Service Project • 9am - 12pm, Sat., March 11 at W. L. Henry Elementary. Come help us improve the garden for classroom teaching. Contact Jerilee (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Men's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., March 17-19 in Lincoln City... The cost is \$100/person, which includes both nights' lodging and all meals. (If you would like to come only for one night, the cost is \$50.) Contact Sam Boden to assist with meal preparation (samuelcboden@gmail.com). Contact Tim Sery regarding cost (fiby2020@gmail.com). Please make checks payable to "Ascension Presbyterian Church," with "retreat" in the memo line. We need to receive checks by Sun., Mar. 12.

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: Jaques Next Sunday: Childers

Refreshments Volunteers

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

Today: K. Boden Next Sunday: _____



Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro
ascensionpc.org • 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.