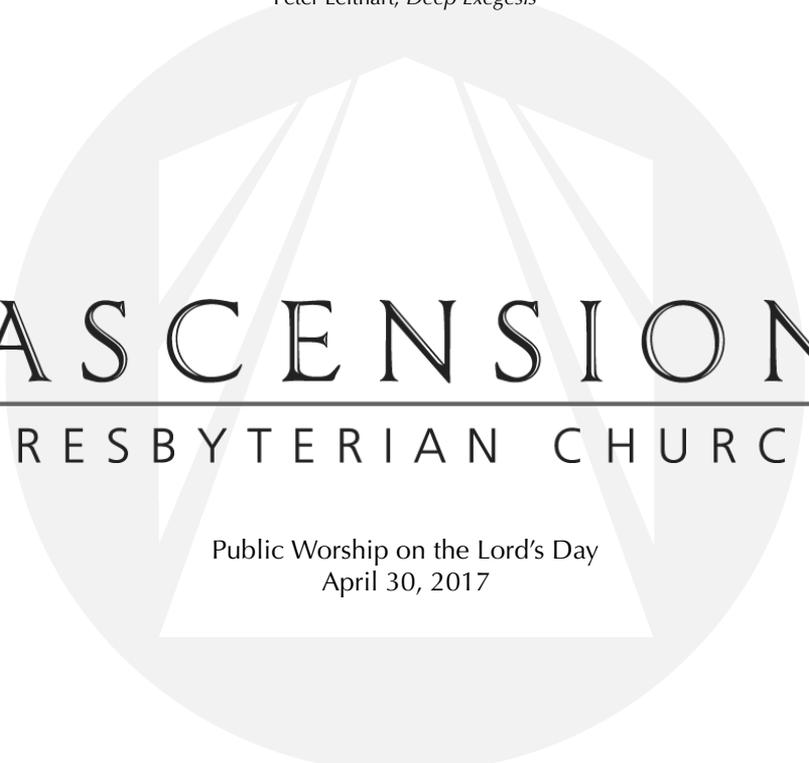


"There is no way of receiving God's revelation of himself except one which involves the abandonment of every intellectual and spiritual security in order to 'come to Jesus.' At this point there is required a simplicity which must appear to the philosophers of religion at best naive and at worst arbitrary and even arrogant... Those who do accept and obey the calling of God—who do his will—know that they are in touch with the truth. They cannot prove it; they can only bear witness."

Lesslie Newbigin, *The Light Has Come*

"Interpretive skills can be taught and improved,
but only the glad of heart make good readers."

Peter Leithart, *Deep Exegesis*



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship on the Lord's Day
April 30, 2017


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 147:1

Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

May Jesus Christ Be Praised

Text: Common Book of Prayer • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Used by Permission

Tenor

8

3

8

6

8

9

8

12

8

15

8

18

8

21

8

8

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find;
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this, while life is mine, my love, my song divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!
My God, the Savior, reigns! May Jesus Christ be praised!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Revelation 1:17b-18

“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Father, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of your salvation now and forever. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Revelation 1:5b-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to God his Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

As you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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 • Psalm 119:97-104

MEM

- 97 Oh how I love your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
- 98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.
- 100 I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.
- 101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.
- 102 I do not turn aside from your rules,
for you have taught me.
- 103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 104 Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.

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...

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, and to offer our petitions to you in His name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of all generations, you formed your church from the despised of the earth and showed them mercy that they might proclaim salvation to all.

Strengthen those you have chosen that they may faithfully endure all trials by which you conform your church to the cross of Christ through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of comfort, you bear the pain of the world and stand with those who sorrow.

Look with compassion on those who are troubled, cheer them by your word, and bring them healing as a sign of your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

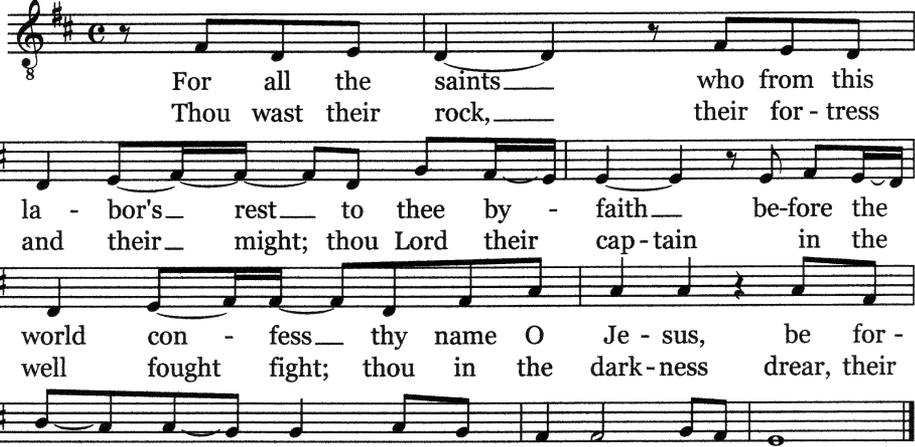
Mighty God, whose word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose on earth through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For All The Saints

Text: William H. How • Music: Christopher Miner • ©1998 Christopher Miner

Tenor



8 For all the saints who from this
2 Thou wast their rock, their for-tress
4 la - bor's rest to thee by - faith be-fore the
8 and their might; thou Lord their cap-tain in the
6 world con - fess thy name O Je - sus, be for -
8 well fought fight; thou in the dark-ness drear, their
e - ver blessed, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu.
one true light, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu.

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alelu...

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest,
Alleluia, Alelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alelu...
Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Love of God

Music and Lyrics by F. M. Lehman (1917) • Public Domain

The love of God is great-er far__ than
When years of time shall pass a - way, and
tongue or pen can ev - er tell; It goes be -
earth - ly thrones and king-doms fall, When men, who
yond the high - est star, and reach - es to the
here re - fuse to pray, on rocks and hills and
low - est hell; The guil - ty pair, bowed down with care,
moun-tains call, God's love so sure, shall still en - dure,
God gave His Son to win; His er - ring child
all mea - sure - less and strong; re - deem - ing grace
He rec - on - ciled, and par - doned from his sin.
to A - dam's race; the saints and an - gel's song.
O love of God, how rich and pure! How mea - sure -
less and strong! It shall forev - er - more en - dure
the saints and an - gels song!

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
to write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

*O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—the saints and angel's song!*

(Repeat chorus)

GOSPEL READING • John 7:14-31

About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. ¹⁵ The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" ¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. ¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. ¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" ²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" ²¹ Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? ²⁴ Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from." ²⁸ So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. ²⁹ I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." ³⁰ So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • "Are You Listening?" (Rev. Eric Costa)





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. 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 catholic[†] 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 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].)

* 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.

† Or, “universal.”

Peace, Perfect Peace

Text: Edward H. Bickersteth (1875) • Music: Matthew H. Curl (2008) • Used by Permission

Tenor



8
Peace, per - fect peace, in this dark world of
4
Peace, per - fect peace, with sor - rows surg - ing
8
sin, the blood of Je - sus whis - pers peace with -
8
round, on Je - sus' bo - som naught but calm is
12
in. Peace, perfect peace, by throng - ing du - ties
12
found. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far a -
8
pressed, to do the will of Je - sus, this is rest. _____
17
way, in - Je - sus' keep - ing we are safe and they. _____
8
It is e - nough: earth's strug - gles soon shall cease, when
21
Je - sus calls us to heaven's per - fect peace. _____ It is e -
26
nough: earth's strug - gles soon shall cease, when Je - sus calls us
30
home to a per - fect peace.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown,
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.
Peace, perfect peace, death shadows us and ours,
Jesus has vanquished death and all its pow'rs.
*It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
when Jesus calls us to heaven's perfect peace.*
*It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
when Jesus calls us home to a perfect peace.*

I'll Fly Away

Text & Music: Albert E. Brumley (1929) • Public Domain

Some bright morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away!
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away!

(Chorus)

*I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away!
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away!*

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away!
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly, I'll fly away!

(Chorus)

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away!
To a land where joys will never end, I'll fly away!

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION • 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

~

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).

Monthly Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., May 6 at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street). Each time we meet we discuss a phrase of the Apostles' Creed. This time: "I Believe in the Holy Spirit." (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 • May 7... 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).

"I'm Hooked" • Robert Spracklen is requesting volunteer drivers to help transport gear for their Family Fishing Weekend. Contact him if you can help (503-330-8056).

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: Sery Next Sunday: Jaques

Refreshments Volunteers

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

Today: Hamilton Next Sunday: Wismer



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

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

(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.