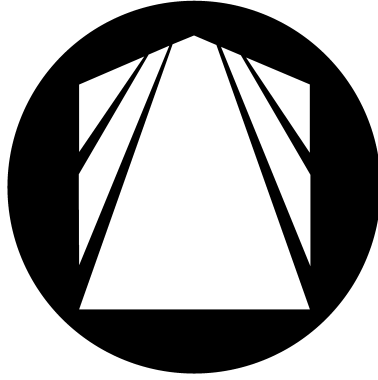


"Like everything which is not the involuntary result of fleeting emotion but the creation of time and will, any marriage, happy or unhappy, is infinitely more interesting than any romance, however passionate."

W. H. Auden, *A Certain World: A Commonplace Book*

"If people understood exactly how radical is the curtailment of independence in marriage, there could never be any divorce. Divorce would be seen as a form of suicide. But then, if people understood the true depth of self-abnegation that marriage demands, there would perhaps be far fewer weddings. For marriage, too, would be seen as a form of suicide. It would be seen not as a way of augmenting one's comfort and security in life, but rather as a way of losing one's life for the sake of Christ."

Mike Mason, *The Mystery Of Marriage*



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 25, 2015
~ REFORMATION SUNDAY ~



THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 47:1-2

Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.

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 score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is not indicated. 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

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Isaiah 50:7-9a

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

“When the devil throws our sins up to us and declares we deserve death and hell, we ought to speak thus: ‘I admit that I deserve death and hell. What of it? Does this mean that I shall be sentenced to eternal damnation? By no means. For I know One who suffered and made a satisfaction in my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Where he is, there I shall be also.’”

Martin Luther
(from a letter to a student)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 8:31, 33-34

If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who is interceding for us.

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

OFFERING • Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

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 45

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.

O Lord, By Grace Delivered

Text: Psalm 30 (1912 Psalter) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

O Lord, by grace de - liv - ered, I
In pros - p'rous days I boast - ed: un -
now with songs ex - tol; my foes you have not
moved I shall re - main; for Lord, by your good
suf - fered to glo - ry o'er my fall. O Lord, my God, I
fa - vor my cause you did main - tain; I soon was sor - ley
sought you, and you did heal and save; - you,
trou - bled, for you did hide your face; I
Lord, from death did ran - som and keep me from the
cried to you Je - ho - vah, I sought Je - ho - vah's
grave. O Lord, by grace de - li - - vered! - I
grace.
now with songs ex - tol! His ho - ly name re -
mem - ber! - You saints, Je - ho - vah praise!

What profit if I perish, if life you do not spare?
Shall dust repeat your praises, shall it your truth declare?
O Lord, on me have mercy, and my petition hear;
that you may be my helper, in mercy, Lord, appear.

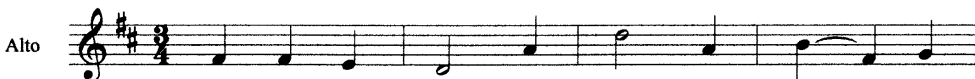
(Chorus)

My grief is turned to gladness, to you my thanks I raise,
who has removed my sorrow and girded me with praise;
and now, no longer silent, my heart your praise will sing;
O Lord, my God forever, my thanks to you I bring.

(Chorus)

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

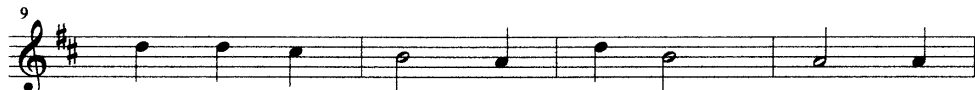
Text: Frank Houghton • Music: French Carol Melody • Public Domain



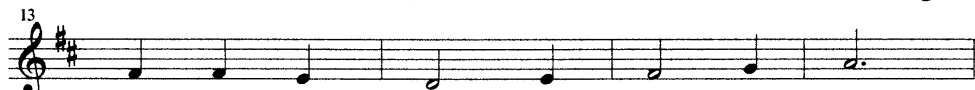
Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing



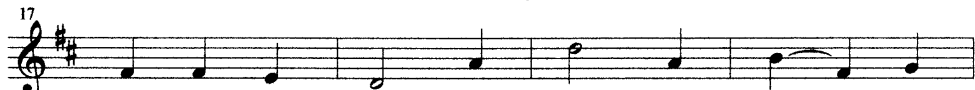
all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
all for love's sake be - cam - est man;
Sav - ior and King we wor - ship thee.



thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,



sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor.
heav'n - ward by thine et - ter - nal plan.
make us what thou wouldst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Ephesians 5:22-33

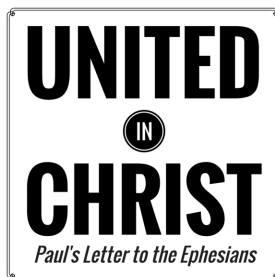
²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

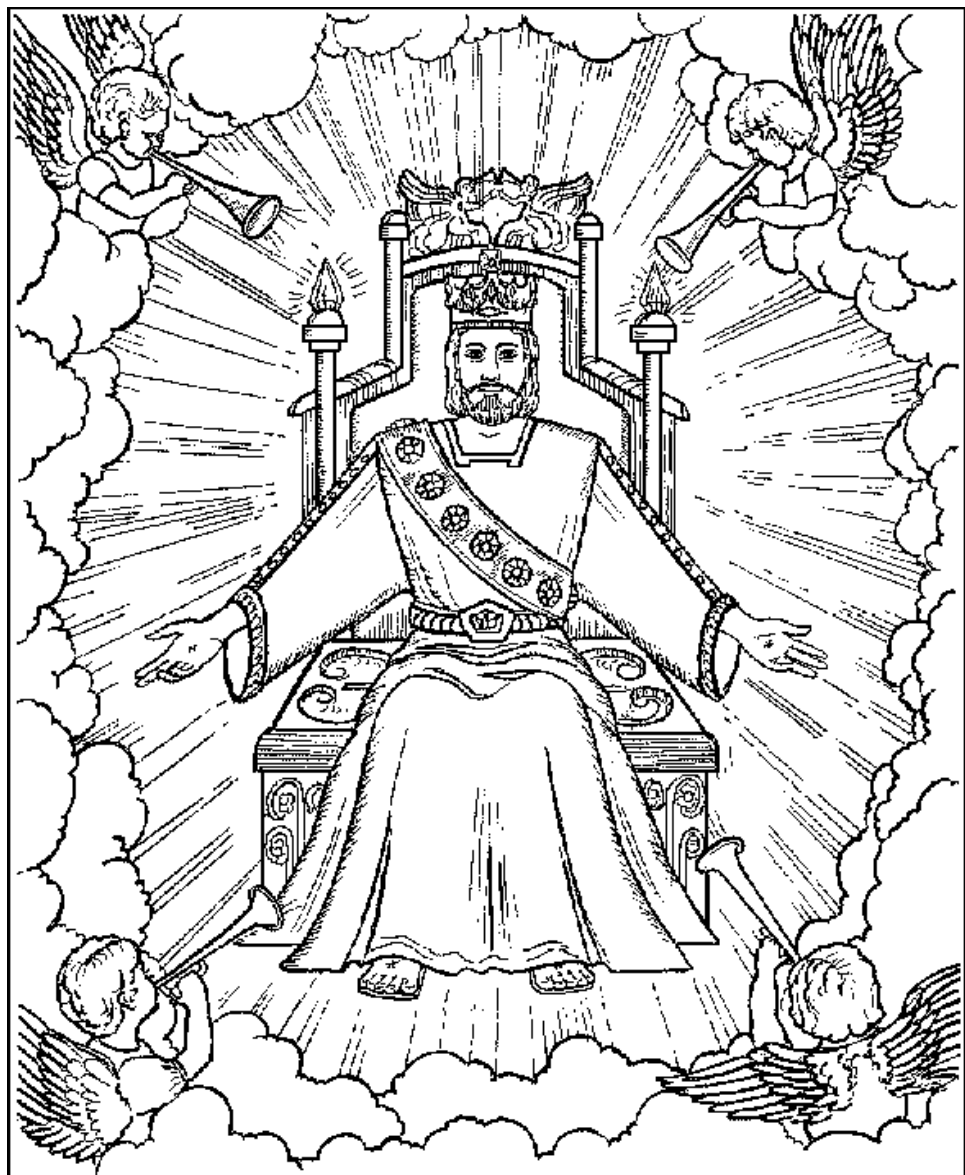
²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “A Profound Mystery” (Rev. Eric Costa)







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

(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].)

THE IMPERFECTIONS OF BELIEVERS SHOULD RATHER INCLINE THEM TO USE THE SUPPER

When we feel within ourselves a strong dislike and hatred of all sin, proceeding from the fear of God, and a desire to live well in order to please our Lord, we are fit to partake of the Supper, notwithstanding of the remains of infirmity which we carry in our flesh. Nay, if we were not weak, subject to distrust and an imperfect life, the sacrament would be of no use to us... Seeing, then, it is a remedy which God has given us to help our weakness, to strengthen our faith, increase our charity, and advance us in all holiness of life, the use becomes the more necessary the more we feel pressed by the disease.

John Calvin, "Short Treatise on the Supper of Our Lord"

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



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
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.
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
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.
drink in - deed; Faith lives u - pon no oth - er!



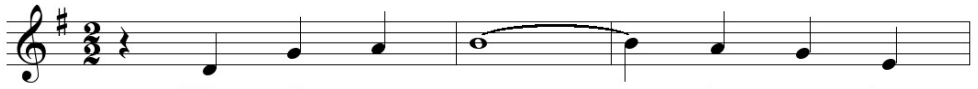
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



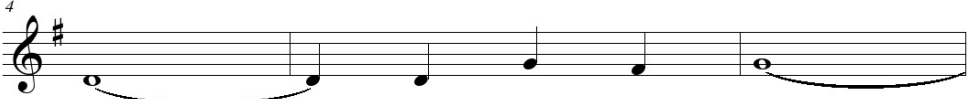
lu - ia!

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: Lowell Mason, *Hamburg* • Public Domain



When I sur - vey _____ the won - drous
For - bid it Lord, _____ that I should
See, from His head, _____ His hands, His
Were the whole realm _____ of na - ture



cross _____ on which the Prince _____
boast, _____ save in the death _____
feet, _____ sor - row and love _____
mine, _____ that were a pre -



— of glo - ry _____ died, _____ my rich - est
— of Christ my God; _____ All the vain
— flow ming - led down. _____ Did e'er such
- sent far too small; _____ Love so a -



gain _____ I count but _____ loss, _____
things _____ that charm me _____ most, _____
love _____ and sor - row _____ meet, _____
maz - - - ing, so di - vine, _____



— and pour con - tempt _____ on all my _____ pride.
— I sac - ri - rice _____ them to His _____ blood.
— or thorns com - pose _____ so rich a _____ crown?
— de - mands my soul, _____ my life, my _____ all.

BENEDICTION • Ephesians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

~

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 • Today after Worship and Sunday School, at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street, Hillsboro). We will begin a new series of conversations about prayer, starting with Karl Barth's little book, *Prayer*. Everyone is welcome!

Moms' Group • Enjoy relaxing with other moms with young children, and invite your friends!

- 10am Wed., Oct. 28 at the home of Sara Sery. The Serys have a bit of a volunteer pumpkin patch, so toss costumes on your kids (or leave them in their pajamas!) and they can pick one to take home. Lunch provided. RSVP (the.serys@gmail.com).

Monthly Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Oct. 31 at the Costa home. Each time we meet we'll look briefly at a phrase from the Apostles' Creed. Eric will provide a brief teaching to kickstart our table conversations. This should be a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors! RSVP (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com), and let Eric know if you can help by bringing part of the breakfast.

Mercy Sunday • Nov. 1... 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).

Musicians • Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 at the Costa home for fellowship and practice. Families are welcome. Also, if you're interested in Advent choir, contact Kady Boden (kady@ascensionpc.org).

Nursery Volunteers • Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Today: Aznoe Next Sunday: Childers

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

Today: Hamilton Next Sunday: Whipple

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



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.