

*The Dragonslayer journeyed
to the captive,
disfigured,
sleeping
Princess.
He fell.
He kissed her.
He rose,
with her,
alive,
beautiful,
free,
and brought her home to His Kingdom.*

**“The
True
Tale...”**

ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship on the Lord's Day
November 20, 2016

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:4

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;
his name is the LORD;
exult before him!

Now Thank We All Our God

Text: Martin Rinkart • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

Now O All thank may praise we this and all boun - teous to God God God with through the

heart and hands and voic - es, Who
all our ther life be near - us, With
Fa - ther now be giv - en, The

won - drous things hath done, in whom His world re -
e - ver joy - ful hearts and with bles - sed peace to
Son, and Him who reigns with them in high - est

joic - es; Who, from our moth - ers'
cheer us; And keep us in His
heav - en, The one e - ter - nal

arms, hath blessed us on our way With
grace, and guide us when per - plexed. And
God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore; For

count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
free us from all ills, in this world and the next
thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Luke 23:39-41

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy One, we confess that we are unholy. We have taken the side of your Enemy and believed his lies rather than your Word. At a deep level we are suspicious of your goodness and authority. We revel in your gifts but do not delight in you. We are ungrateful and deluded in our pretended autonomy. You are Love, but we love ourselves and hate you. We sin. Clearly we do not deserve your forgiveness, but we are bold to ask for it because of your Son, Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us. Please, Father, assure us of your love through the Gospel of your Son, and purge our sins through the cleansing fire of your Holy Spirit. We ask in the name of Jesus and according to his will. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Luke 23:42-43

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Acts 20:32, 35

"Now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified... By working hard we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

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 • Hosea 2:14-20

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...

Through Jesus, whom we confess as Lord, we give thanks and praise to the Father, calling on him who is judge of all:

Father, your kingdom come.

For all the peoples of the world; that they may know you as the God of peace, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For nations, leaders and governments; that integrity may mark all their dealings, we pray to you O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For all who labor for righteousness; that your presence and help may give them courage, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For communities torn by dissension and strife; that your forgiveness may bring them healing, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved; that consolation and peace may be theirs, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For the Church, your household and family; that she may be firm in the confession of her hope, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For our pastor, and for all who bear Christ's name; that their lives may proclaim your glory, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

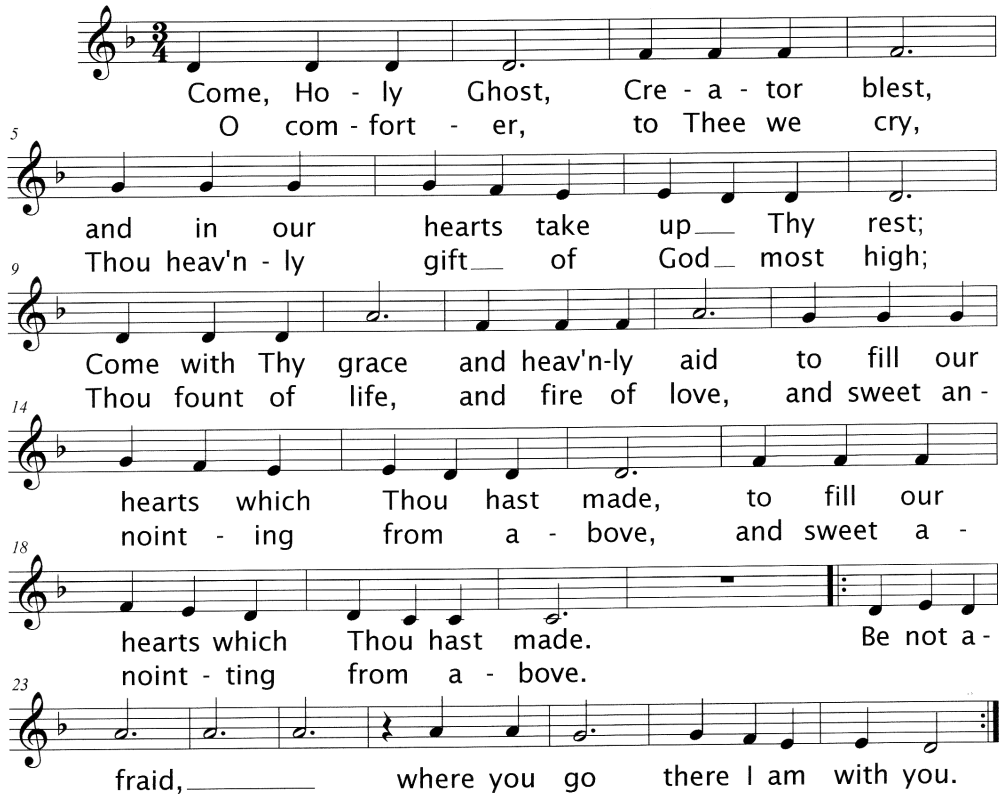
O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep: make us perfect in all goodness to do your will and to be what you would have us be; through him to whom be glory forever, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest,
5 O com - fort - er, to Thee we cry,
9 and in our hearts take up Thy rest;
13 Thou heav'n - ly gift of God most high;
17 Come with Thy grace and heav'n-ly aid to fill our
21 Thou fount of life, and fire of love, and sweet an -
25 hearts which Thou hast made, to fill our
29 noint - ing from a - bove, and sweet a -
33 hearts which Thou hast made. Be not a -
37 noint - ting from a - bove.
41 afraid, 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)

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)

GOSPEL READING • John 3:22-36

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷ John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony.

³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • "He Must Increase" (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.¹ 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 catholic² 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 in the back for prayer [James 5:13-16].)

¹ 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.

² Or, “universal.”

At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Text: Robert Campbell • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our vic - to - rious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
flow - ing from His pierc - ed side;
Praise we Him whose love di - vine
gives His sa - cred blood for wine,
gives His bod - y for the feast,
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheaths his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed: paschal victim, paschal bread.
With sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from the sky, pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
Death is conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light.
Hymns of glory and of praise, risen Lord, to thee we raise;
Holy Father, praise to thee, with the Spirit ever be.

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 • 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!

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).

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: Aznoe Next Sunday: Costa

Refreshments Volunteers

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

Today: Sery 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.