"Following Jesus costs something, and may cost life itself. Yet not following Jesus means one is siding with a lost and hateful world."

D. A. Carson

"The love which binds Jesus to the Father and the disciples to Jesus is the total denying of the self to the point of death. It is therefore rejected totally by the world where the fullness of life is seen as something to be grasped. Self-assertion must necessarily hate and reject self-denial... Christians ought not to be surprised if they are hated and rejected. Rather they should be alarmed when the world finds them very congenial, for the world loves its own. A church which is conformed to the world will not be recognizable as the company of the friends of Jesus. The sign of the cross will be the mark by which the true friends of Jesus will be recognized."

Lesslie Newbigin



PUBLIC WORSHIP • MARCH 11, 2018

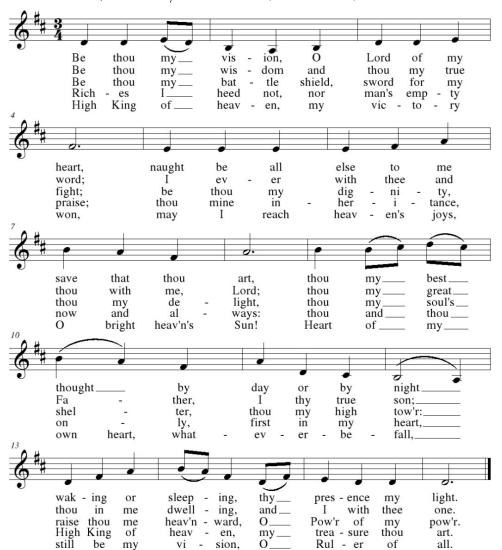


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 72:18-19

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Unknown, 8th Century • Music: Slane (Irish Folk Tune) • Public Domain



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Peter 1:18-19

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Peter 3:18

Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

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

OFFERING • 1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.

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 69

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...

Most gracious God, who has promised to reveal his glory among all nations, Hear us as we pray for your church. Bless all the ministers of your word and sacraments and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God of our fathers, who has promised to take care of our every need, Give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons. Grant all in authority over us wisdom and strength to do your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most merciful Father, comfort all who believe the good news of your grace.

We pray for all who are distressed: the poor, the homeless, the sick, the bereaved, and those afflicted in body and mind. Comfort and relieve them according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now, as our Savior taught us, we pray:

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.

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Sav - ior

and

King,

we

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



wor - ship

thee.



List-ten and hear the Lord say:

am

I_____

that

"Be

"Be

God."____

God is with-in her, and she will not fail,

and

know____

still.

GOSPEL READING • John 15:18 - 16:4

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:1} "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you."

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

SERMON • "Spiritual Association" (Rev. Eric Costa)





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."

O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus

Text: Samuel Trevor Francis • Music: Thomas J. Williams • Public Domain



The Lamb Has Overcome

Music and Lyrics: Luke Morton • ©2011 Cardiphonia Music



The table now is spread, the table now is spread; the wine and bread, broken body and blood shed, the table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near; he shall appear and wipe away each tear, the day is drawing near!

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, glory be unto his name! Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, glory be unto his name! (Repeat Chorus)

BENEDICTION • Jude 1-2

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

~

Remember: every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christ-centered community and life of the church! For information about our regular meetings like home groups, bible studies for men and women, and more, please visit **ascensionpc.org/calendar**.

Informational Meeting • Today (Mar. 11) after Worship... Join us for conversation led by our Elders and Deacons about various aspects of the ministry of our congregation. All are welcome, members are especially encouraged to attend.

Men's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., Apr. 27-29 in Oceanside... The cost will be \$80 for both nights, or \$40 for one night (meals included). Make checks payable to Ascension Presbyterian Church with "retreat" in the memo line, and give them to Tim Sery. There are only a few spots left, so **RSVP ASAP**.

Refreshments Volunteers • Bringing refreshments to share at church is a great way to practice hospitality. Ideally, each Sunday we have two volunteers: one bringing snacks for the children, the other bringing something for the adults. Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com)

Today: /	Next week: Sauerwein /

Nursery Volunteers • Can you play with young children and help their parents once every 6-8 weeks? Join the nursery rotation! Contact: Rainy Aznoe (rainyrr@aol.com).

Today: Aznoe Next week: Sery



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, tea	ar it off, and drop it in the offering.)
Name(s)	[] Lam a visitor.

[] I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.