

"The joy of the new age of the Messiah must be preceded by tribulation. The tribulations of Jesus and his disciples are in fact the birth pangs of the new creation... The birth pangs of the new world have begun in his passion, and those who follow him share them. But the joy of the new creation has also begun in his resurrection, and those who follow the way of the cross also share the joy of the new world."

Lesslie Newbigin

"This light momentary affliction
is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory
beyond all comparison."

2 Corinthians 4:17



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • MARCH 25, 2018
PALM SUNDAY


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

All Glory, Laud And Honor

Text: Theodulph of Orleans (ca. 820) • Music: Melchior Teschner

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to thee Re - deem - er King, to whom the lips of child - ren made sweet ho - san - nas ring! Thou art the King of Is - rael thou Da - vid's roy - al Son, who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One!"

All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to
thee Re - deem - er King, to whom the lips of
child - ren made sweet ho - san - nas ring! Thou
art the King of Is - rael thou Da - vid's roy - al
Son, who in the Lord's name com - est, the
King and bless - ed One!

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present.
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.
All glory, laud and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 John 2:1

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 John 2:2

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Psalm 96:8

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

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 30

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Text: Matthew 6:9-13 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

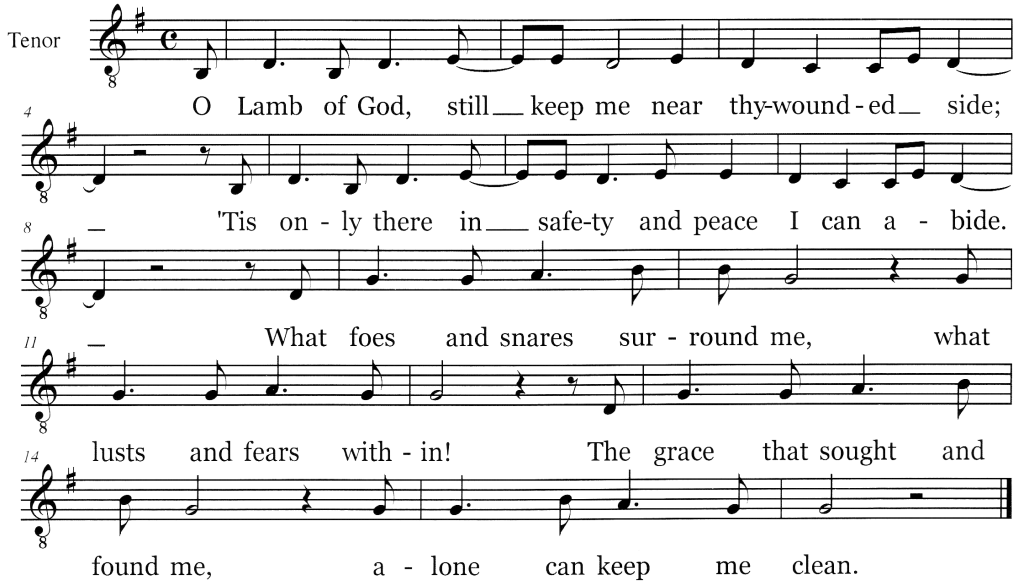
Our fath-er in hea-ven hal-low-ed be your name,
5 Your king-dom come, your will be done on earth as it is in
9 hea - ven. Give us to - day our dail - y
13 bread, and for-give all our tres-pass-es as we for-give those who
16 tres-pass a - gainst us. And lead us not in-to temp-
21 ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from the e - vil one. For
27 yours in the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo - ry for -
31 ev - er - more. A - men.

(Sing twice)

O Lamb Of God, Still Keep Me

Text: James George Deck • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Used by Permission

Tenor



O Lamb of God, still keep me near thy-wound-ed side;
'Tis on-ly there in safe-ty and peace I can a-bide.
What foes and snares sur-round me, what
lusts and fears with-in! The grace that sought and
found me, a-lone can keep me clean.

'Tis only in thee hiding, I feel myself secure;
'tis only in thee abiding, the conflict can endure;
thine arm the victory gaineth, o'er every hateful foe;
thy love my heart sustaineth in all its cares and woes.

Soon shall my eyes behold thee with rapture, face to face;
one half hath not been told me of all thy pow'r and grace:
thy beauty, Lord, and glory, the wonders of thy love,
shall be the endless story of all the saints above.

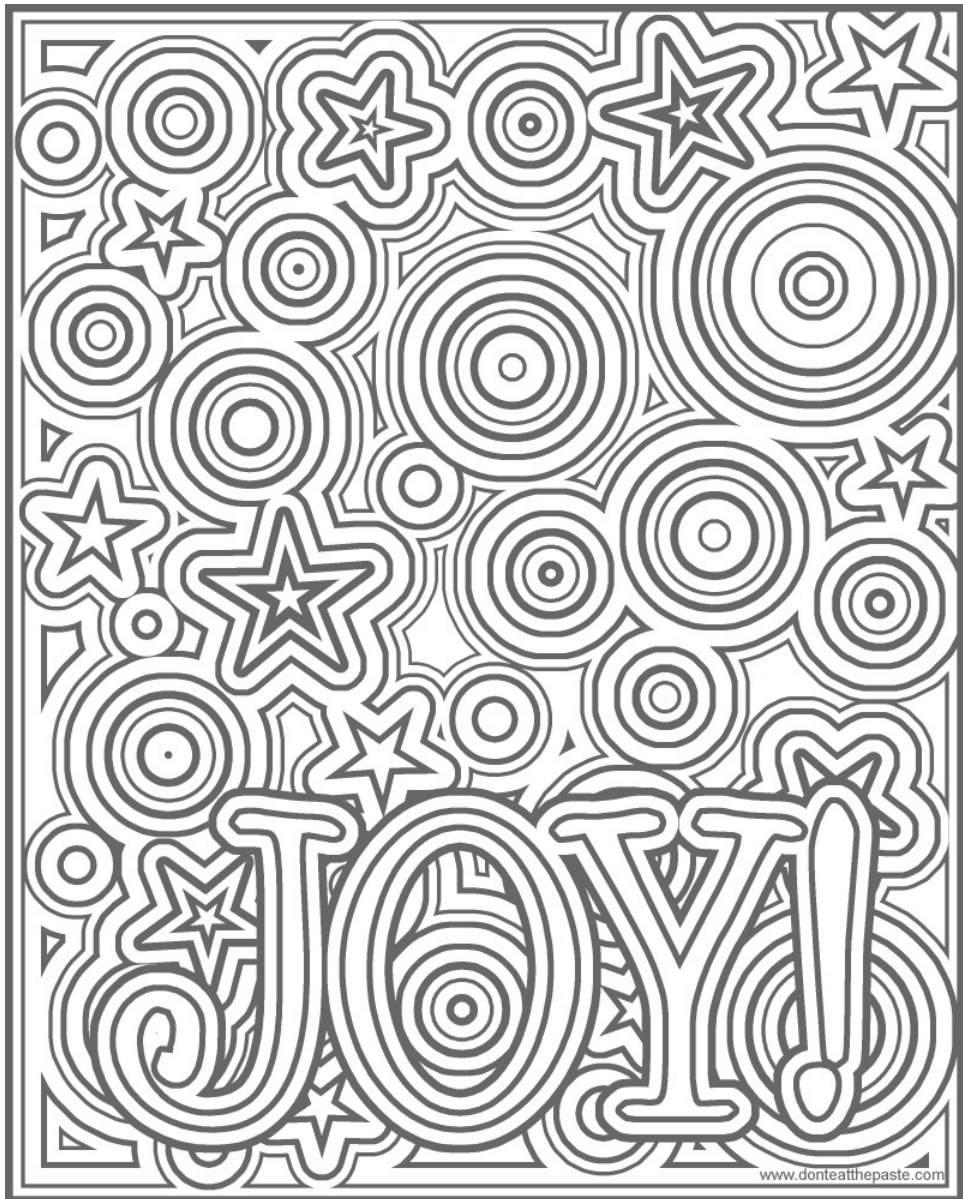
GOSPEL READING • John 16:16-24

“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.”¹⁷ So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’”¹⁸ So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.”¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?”²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Your Sorrow Will Turn into Joy” (Rev. Eric Costa)





THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • Colossians 1:15-20

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 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].)

God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51)

Text: Richard Redhead • Music: Christopher Miner • © 1998 Christopher Miner

Voice

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "God be mer - ci - ful to me — on thy grace I rest my plea; plen - te - ous in com - pas - sion Thou — blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me make me pure with - in — cleanse O cleanse me from my sin."

God be mer - ci - ful to me —
on thy grace I rest my plea; plen - te - ous in com -
pas - sion Thou — blot out my trans -
gres - sions now; wash me make me pure
with - in — cleanse O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against thy grace and provoked thee to thy face;
I confess thy judgment just; speechless, I thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach thy wisdom to my heart;
make me pure, thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust by thy wrath and judgment just,
let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear thy voice;
from my sins O hide thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
cast me not away from thee, let thy Spirit dwell in me;
thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me, and return O God to thee;
Savior, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing thy love;
touch my silent lips O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.

Hosanna In The Highest

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

Tenor

8 Ho - san - na to the liv - ing Lord! Ho - san - na to the
O Sav - ior with pro - tect - ing care, a - bide in this thy
4 Be ho - nor, praise, and glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and
8 liv - ing word! Where we thy par - ting prom - ise claim, as -
house of prayer; and make our se - cret soul to be, a
7 all in heav'n, to God the Fa - ther and the Son, and
8 semb - led in thy sa - cred name; to Christ, cre - a - tor
tem - ple pure and ho - ly; be hon - or praise and
10 God the Spi - rit three in one, be hon - or praise and
8 Sa - vior, King, let earth, let heav'n, Ho - san - nas sing! Ho - san - na!
glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n.
14 glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n! _____
8 _ Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! in the high - est! _____

(Repeat final chorus)

BENEDICTION • Philippians 4:23

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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Remember: every gathering is an opportunity to invite friends, to introduce others 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.

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After Worship • Please stay a while and join us for coffee and conversation. Around 11:45am we start Sunday School—kids will meet in the sanctuary before going to their classes, and adults will meet in the fellowship hall for Sermon Discussion (young children are welcome to accompany their parents).

Officer Nominations • Members may make nominations through the end of March. Please submit your nominations to the Elders (Joe or Eric). If you're not sure how to participate, don't hesitate to ask!

Good Friday Service • 7pm Fri., Mar. 30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Breakfast • 8:30am Sun., Apr. 1 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring food to share, and consider helping with setup and/or cleanup. (A sign-up sheet is available online via the email newsletter.)

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (Apr. 1) we participate together in some compassion and relief ministries. It's good for us to cultivate regular habits like these so that generosity and helping others become "second-nature" to us and to our children...

- Alms — These gifts go toward a fund the deacons use to meet urgent needs among congregants and in the community as we are made aware of them. (If you need financial help, please let us know!)
- Food pantry — The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, has many families who rely on help like this. To sign up, contact Jerilee Costa: jerilee.costa@gmail.com.

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: Jaques / Douglas

Next week: Elliott / _____

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

Today: Jaques

Next week: Bonifield



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.