"Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken." Hebrews 12:28



PUBLIC WORSHIP • MARCH 17, 2019

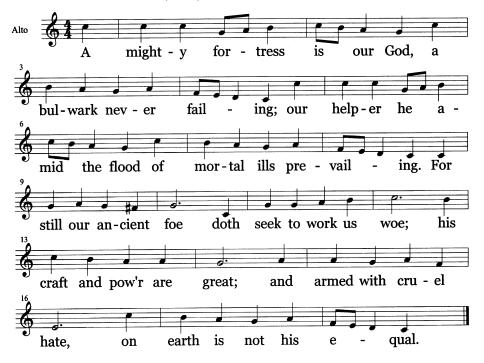


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 30:4-5

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text & Music: Martin Luther (1529) • Public Domain



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

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 John 4:15

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Acts 2:44-45

All who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

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.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 21:18-22

In the morning, as Jesus was returning to the city, he became hungry. ¹⁹ And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once.

²⁰ When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" ²¹ And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. ²² And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray...

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem, may your church be a sign of hope and glory.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, truly risen from the dead, our Alpha and Omega, may the whole world live in peace and justice, according to Your will.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of promise, fulfill the needs and desires of those who are sick or sorrowful.

Lord, have mercy.

All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace.

Teach us to proclaim the good news of your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

God, teach us to pray as your Son taught His disciples, saying

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.

How Firm A Foundation

Text: Rippon's Selection of Hymns (1787) • Music: Trad. American Melody • Public Domain



"When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be with you, your troubles to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply; the flame shall not hurt you; I only design, your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."



still,_____

and

know____

that

I____

God."____

am

"Be

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 46

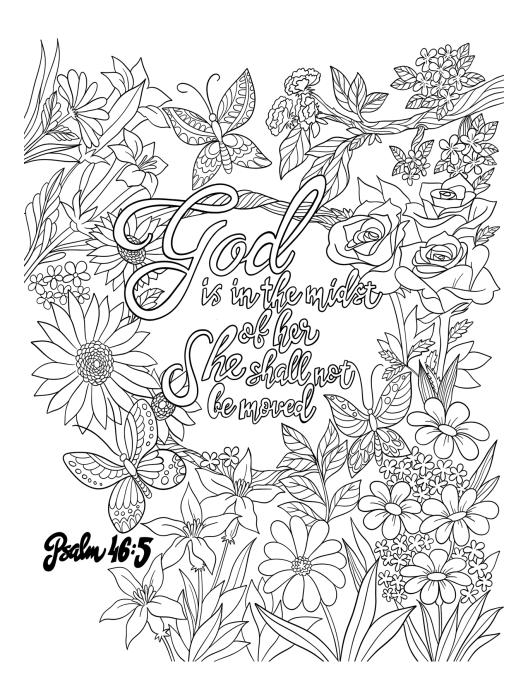
TO THE CHOIRMASTER. OF THE SONS OF KORAH, ACCORDING TO ALAMOTH, A SONG.

- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selal
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
 God will help her when morning dawns.
- The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- The LORD of hosts is with us;the God of Jacob is our fortress.Selah
- 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.
- "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
- The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Selah

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*

SERMON • "A Mighty Fortress" (Rev. Eric Costa)





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.

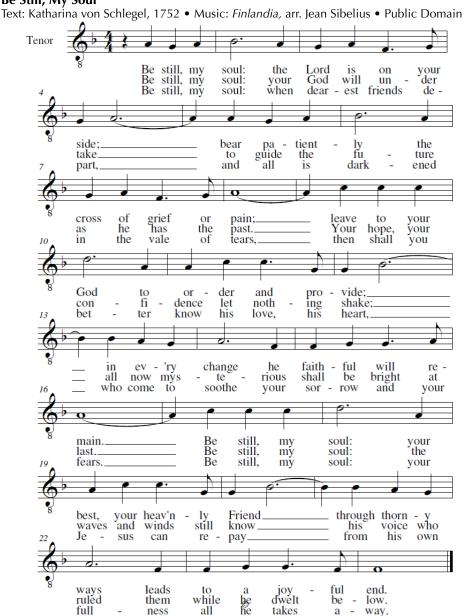
Therefore let us keep the feast.

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].)

Be Still, My Soul

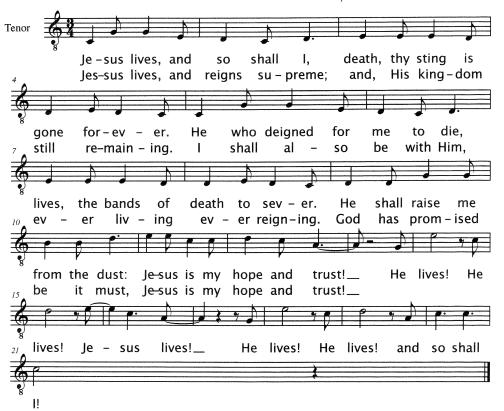


Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment, grief and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Jesus Lives And So Shall I

Text: Christian F. Gellert • Music: Matthew Curl • Used by Permission



Jesus lives, and by his grace, vict'ry o'er my passions giving, I will cleanse my heart and ways, ever to his glory living.

Me he raises from the dust: Jesus is my hope and trust!

(Chorus)

Jesus lives, I know full well, naught from him my heart can sever, life nor death, nor pow'rs of hell, joy nor grief, henceforth forever. None of all his saints is lost: Jesus is my hope and trust!

(Chorus)

Jesus lives and death is now but my entrance into glory. Courage, then, my soul, for thou hast a crown of life before thee; thou shalt find thy hopes were just: Jesus is my hope and trust!

(Chorus x2)

BENEDICTION • Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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.

After Worship • Please stay a while for coffee and conversation! Around 11:45am we will begin Sunday School classes for the children in the sanctuary, and Sermon Discussion for the adults in the Fellowship Hall. (Infants and toddlers are welcome to join the adults in Sermon Discussion.)

Refreshments Volunteers • Bringing refreshments to share at church is a great way to practice hospitality. Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com)

> Today: Elliott 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: Elliott Next week: Jaques



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)	[] I am a visitor.

[] I would like to get coffee with the Pastor. [] Please send me the email newsletter.

Email / Phone [] Please use this info for the photo directory.