

Even though we are unable to meet for public worship, we hope you will make use of this abridged liturgy on the Lord's Day for your private or family worship. Audio recordings of the sermons will be posted on the website here:

ascensionpc.org/sermons



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP • MARCH 22, 2020


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Hebrews 12:28-29

Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Text: Reginald Heber • Music: John Dykes • Public Domain



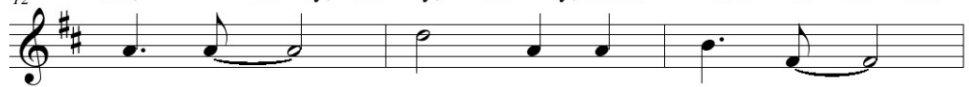
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!___ Lord___ God Al - migh - ty!___
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!___ All the saints a - dore Thee,___
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!___ though the dark - ness hide Thee,___
5 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!___ Lord___ God Al - migh - ty!___



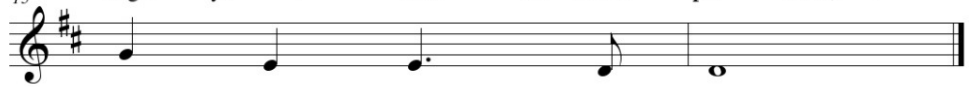
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not
8 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and



Thee. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!___ Mer - ci - ful and
sea; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be -
see; On - ly Thou art ho - ly;___ there is none be -
12 sea; Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly;___ mer - ci - ful and



migh - ty!___ God in three per - sons,___
fore Thee,___ Who wert, and art, and___
side Thee,___ Per - fect in pow'r, in___
15 migh - ty!___ God in Three per - sons,___



bles - ed Trin - i - ty!
ev - er - more shalt be.
love, and pur - i - ty.
bles - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Genesis 6:5

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

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 • Genesis 15:6

Abraham believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Philippians 4:11-13, 19-20

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me... And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Tithes and offerings can be mailed to:

Ascension Presbyterian Church
2459 SE Tualatin Valley HWY #354
Hillsboro, OR 97123

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 16:13–23

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

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...

Holy Father, our great God, we praise you for your perfect holiness.

We thank you for not sparing your own Son but giving him up for us all. We love you for adopting us as your children by your grace. We trust you to use every circumstance for our good as your people.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for taking our condemnation on yourself.

We love you for the pity you showed in rescuing us from our sins. We rest in you because you are constantly interceding for us with the Father. We thank you that absolutely nothing can separate us from your love.

Holy Spirit of God, we praise you for giving us new life and living with us constantly.

We thank you for the war you wage against sin in our lives. We delight in the assurance you give us that we are God's sons in Christ. We love you for searching our hearts and helping us in our weakness.

Hear us as we pray in the words of the Lord himself, 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.

God Is The Strength Of My Heart

Text: Psalm 73 (1912 Psalter) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 God - is good to His peo - ple, His mer - cy to me,
5 is al - ways un - fail - ing, though I could not see.
9 And when my faith fal - tered, I en - vied the proud.
13 In doubt and dis - qui - et my spir - it was bowed.
17 Trust - in the Lord God, He is un - fail - ing,
21 He is the strength of my heart ev - er more!
the good and the pure.

In doubt and temptation, I rest Lord in you;
my hand is in your hand, whatever I do.
You always are with me; you guide with your word,
and soon into glory will take me, O Lord.

(Chorus)

Whom have I, O Savior, in heaven but you?
On earth for none other I long but for you.
My flesh and my heart may be weakened and sore,
but God is the strength of my heart evermore.

(Chorus)

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Revelation 3:7-13

“And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

⁸ “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “The Key to the Kingdom” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“The church is in God’s keeping. We do not have the right to be anxious about it. We have our Lord’s word that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. The crux of the matter is that we have been chosen to be the bearers of good news for the whole world.” — Lesslie Newbigin

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.

* 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.”

Rock Of Ages

Text: Augustus M. Toplady • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Rock of A - ges cleft for me, let me hide my -
Not the la - bors of my hands, can ful - fil thy
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
4 self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,
law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know,
7 cross I cling; na - ked come to thee for dress;
8 from thy ri - ven side which flowed, be of sin the
could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could
10 help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the
8 dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
13 Foun - tain fly; wash me Sav - ior or I die.
8 Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me! Let me
16 hide my - self in thee! Rock of Ag - es, cleft for
19 me! Oh my Je - sus res - cue me!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

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Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF (omf.org/asia/taiwan)



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