ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JULY 19, 2020



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 34:3-5, 8

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed... Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

I Know That My Redeemer Lives—Glory, Hallelujah!

Text: Samuel Medley • Music: American Folk Hymn • Public Domain



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen! *He is risen indeed!* Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Jeremiah 2:12-13

"Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me,

the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Fountain of Living Waters, you give to all mankind life and breath and everything. But we have refused to honor you or give you thanks. We stubbornly pretend that we don't need you, that we can help ourselves. We actively resist your presence and will in our lives. We thoughtlessly ignore you, which may be the worst slight of all. Yet you remain a God of light and life and love, and, in your grace, you have invaded this world to save us from ourselves. Your presence and will, as seen in Jesus, is better than our autonomy. We are sorry for our foolish rebellion. Please forgive us, and fix our eyes on Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Jeremiah 3:22a

"Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness."

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

OFFERING • Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

(If you have brought a gift with you, please place it in one of the bags on the table when you come forward for Communion later.)

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 • Genesis 1:1–5

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 2 Corinthians 4:1-7

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

 $^{\rm 7}$ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

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

SERMON • "God's Role and Our Role in Evangelism" (Rev. Kevin Allen)

Kevin is the Western Director of Christianity Explored USA. Christianity Explored exists to mobilize the local church in her mission of evangelism by exploring Jesus in the Bible in a welcoming environment. He previously served for 18 years as an Associate Pastor at Village Seven Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Colorado Springs where he oversaw the church's evangelistic effort and adult discipleship. He is a Teaching Elder in the PCA.



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.

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."

Hosanna In The Highest

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

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(Repeat final chorus)

BENEDICTION • 2 Peter 1:2

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.



PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org) Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpnetwork.com) Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org) Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF (omf.org/asia/taiwan)

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(Drop this contact card in the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)					
Name(s)	[] 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.

Email / Phone