



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • OCTOBER 25, 2020
REFORMATION SUNDAY


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 95:6-8a

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker!

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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

Alto

A might - y for - tress is our God, a
bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a -
mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For
still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his
craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el
hate, on earth is not his e - qual.

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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 • Romans 7:18-19

I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, we have loved other gods before you and have become their servants. We have not worshiped you in spirit and in truth. We have brought insult upon your reputation. We have not trusted you to give us rest. We have not honored others as they deserve. We have hated our neighbors. Our desires are all distorted and misplaced. We have taken for ourselves what did not belong to us. We have lied, slandered, and gossiped. We have coveted the good blessings you gave to others. O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have not kept your law. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

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 • Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other

commandment greater than these.”³² And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him.³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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...

Our Father in Heaven, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. You did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all; how will you not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

We thank you for your daily provision for our physical needs. We thank you for your care for our souls. We thank you for your mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord Jesus, You rule over all things for the sake of your Church. You are at the right hand of God interceding for us constantly. Nothing can separate us from your love.
Increase the peace and purity and unity of this congregation. Strengthen the church of Christ in our city. Protect and stand with our brothers and sisters everywhere who are being persecuted for their faith.

Our Savior, you invite the weary and burdened to come to you and find rest. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. You are gentle and humble in heart.
Heal those who are sick. Give your grace and peace to those facing imminent death and to those who care for them. Comfort those who are grieving. Sit closely with those who are lonely. Provide for those who are seeking work. Free those who are struggling with enslaving sins.

Our great God, we hear your promise that the knowledge of your glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.
Increase the spread of the Gospel in and through our city, to the world. We ask you to extend your mercy to our friends and loved ones.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen.

The Love of God

Music and Lyrics by F. M. Lehman (1917) • Public Domain

The love of God is great - er far than
When years of time shall pass a - way, and
tongue or pen can ev - er tell; It goes be -
earth - ly thrones and king - doms fall, When men, who
yond the high - est star, and reach - es to the
here re - fuse to pray, on rocks and hills and
low - est hell; The guil - ty pair, bowed down with care,
moun - tains call, God's love so sure, shall en - dure,
God gave His Son to win; His er - ring child
all mea - sure - less and strong; re - deem - ing grace
He rec - on - ciled, and par - doned from his sin.
to A - dam's race; the saints and an - gel's song.
O love of God, how rich and pure! How mea - sure -
less and strong! It shall for - ev - er - more en - dure
the saints and an - gels song!

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
to write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

*O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—the saints and angel's song!*

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control.

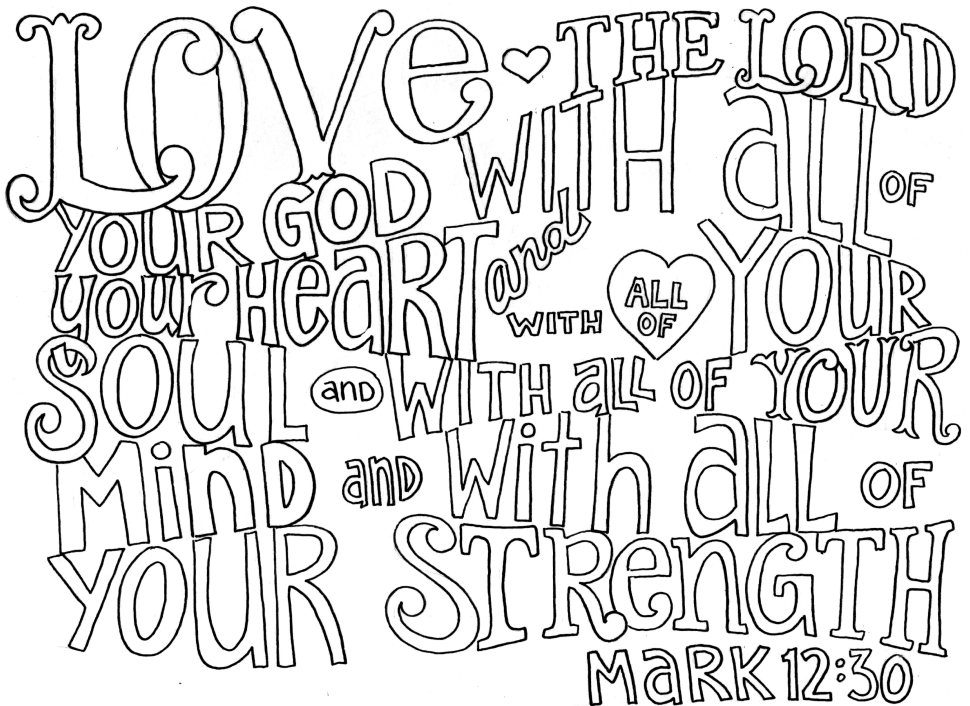
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Love” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“Agape = love. It means to serve a person for their good... not for what the person brings you. Its opposite is fear: self-protection and abusing people. Its counterfeit is selfish affection, where you are attracted to someone and treat them well because of how they make you feel about yourself.”

Timothy Keller (*Galatians For You*)





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.

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].)

Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands

Text: Martin Luther • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when
Here the true pas - chal Lamb we see, whom
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to
Then let us feast this ho - ly day on

3
our of - fens - es giv - en; but now at God's right
life and death con - tend - ed. The vic - tor - y re -
God so free - ly gave us. He died on the ac -
which the Lord in - vites us. Christ is Him - self the
6
Christ, the bread of hea - ven. The Word of grace has

hand He stands and brings us life from heav - en.
mained with life; the reign of death was end - ed.
curs - ed tree, so strong His love to save us.
joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
9
purged a - way the old and e - vil leav - en.

There - fore let us joy - ful be, and sing to God right
Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says His death has swal - lowed
See His blood now marks our door; faith points to it death
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine
12
Christ a - lone our souls will feed; he is our meat and

thank - ful - ly loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
up our death; its sting is lost for - ev - er.
pass - es o'er, and Sa - tan can - not harm us.
to our hearts; the night of sin is end - ed.
17
drink in - deed; Faith lives u - pon no oth - er!

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
23
lu - ia!

Come, Oh Come, O Quickening Spirit

Text and Music: Heinrich Held (1620-1659), arr. Chip Ueltschey



Come, oh come, O quick - 'ning Spi - rit,
On - ly that which you de - sire
Bless - ed Spi - rit, still re - new - ing
Help us keep the faith for - ev - er;



God be - fore the dawn of time!
be our ob - ject; with your hand
all who dwell up - on the earth,
let not Sa - tan, death, or shame



Fire our hearts with ho - ly ar - dor,
lead our ev - 'ry thought and ac - tion,
when the e - vil one as - sails us
draw us from you or de - prive us



bless - ed Com - for - ter sub - lime!
let us be at your com - mand.
help us prove our heav'n - ly birth;
of the hon - or of your name.



Let your ra - diance fill our night,
All our sin - ful - ness e - raise
Arm us with your might - y sword
When the foe would lure us hence,



turn - ing dark - ness in - to light.
with the in - crease of your grace.
in the le - gions of the Lord.
be, O God, our sure de - fense.

BENEDICTION • 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

~

FOR THOSE JOINING US IN PERSON...

Greetings! In deference to current state mandates, we are limiting our services to 50 participants each. Please sign up early if you plan to attend a service. (If you need access to the online signup sheet, contact Eric: rev.eric.costa@gmail.com) If your name is not on the list by the time of the service on Sunday, and the service is already full, or if you are experiencing symptoms of illness, we ask that you would instead join us on Zoom.

Please wear a mask and observe “social distancing” (6ft) between households.

During Communion, parents, please distribute the bread and cup to participating children.

Thank you for your help making others feel comfortable joining us for Worship!

FOR THOSE JOINING US ON ZOOM...

Please remain “muted” throughout the service, but feel free to “unmute” afterwards and catch up with each other. (You can find each Sunday’s liturgy posted online at ascensionpc.org/worship.)

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)

Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpnetwork.com)

Rev. Drew Burdette, Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org) at Oregon State

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)

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.