



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • FEBRUARY 28, 2021



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 147:1

Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

May Jesus Christ Be Praised

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

Tenor

8

3

6

8

9

12

8

15

8

18

8

21

8

24

8

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find;
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this, while life is mine, my love, my song divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!
My God, the Savior, reigns! May Jesus Christ be praised!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Genesis 3:7-9

The eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy One, we confess that we are unholy. We have taken the side of your Enemy and believed his lies rather than your Word. At a deep level we are suspicious of your goodness and authority. We revel in your gifts but do not delight in you. We are ungrateful and deluded in our pretended autonomy. You are Love, but we love ourselves and hate you. We sin. Clearly we do not deserve your forgiveness, but we are bold to ask for it because of your Son, Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us. Please, Father, assure us of your love through the Gospel of your Son, purge our sins through the cleansing fire of your Holy Spirit, and crush the devil's power. We ask in the name of Jesus and according to his will. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Genesis 3:21

The LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Exodus 23:19

The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 Corinthians 15:32, 47–49, 58

If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ... The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven... ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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...

(From David’s prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all.

In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

And we pray your beloved Son’s prayer:

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 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!*

For All The Saints

Text: William H. How • Music: Christopher Miner • ©1998 Christopher Miner

Tenor

8

For all the saints who from this
Thou wast their rock, their for- tress

2

la - bor's rest to thee by - faith be-fore the
and their might; thou Lord their cap-tain in the

4

world con - fess thy name O Je - sus, be for -
well fought fight; thou in the dark-ness drear, their

6

e - ver blessed, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu.
one true light, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The tempo/meter is indicated as 8. The lyrics for the first staff are 'For all the saints who from this' and 'Thou wast their rock, their for- tress'. The second staff continues with 'la - bor's rest to thee by - faith be-fore the' and 'and their might; thou Lord their cap-tain in the'. The third staff continues with 'world con - fess thy name O Je - sus, be for -' and 'well fought fight; thou in the dark-ness drear, their'. The fourth staff concludes with 'e - ver blessed, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu.' and 'one true light, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu.'.

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alelu...

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest,
Alleluia, Alelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ecclesiastes 3:16 – 4:3

Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. ¹⁷ I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. ¹⁸ I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. ¹⁹ For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. ²⁰ All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. ²¹ Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? ²² So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

^{4:1} Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. ² And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. ³ But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Comfort for the Oppressed” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)

“Man in his pomp will not remain;
he is like the beasts that perish.

This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;
yet after them people approve of their boasts.

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
death shall be their shepherd,

and the upright shall rule over them in the morning.

Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,
for he will receive me.” (Psalm 49:12–15)

“Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. (Psalm 113:5-8)

“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31)

“There is no coincidence in the fact that power is on the side of the oppressor, since it is power that most quickly breeds the habit of oppression. Paradoxically it limits the possibility of reform itself, because the more control the reformer wields, the more it tends to tyrannify.” (Derek Kidner)





THE UPPER ROOM



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."

At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Text: Robert Campbell • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor



At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our vic - to - rious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
flow - ing from His pierc - ed side;
Praise we Him whose love di - vine
gives His sa - cred blood for wine,
gives His bod - y for the feast,
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheaths his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed: paschal victim, paschal bread.
With sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from the sky, pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
Death is conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light.
Hymns of glory and of praise, risen Lord, to thee we raise;
Holy Father, praise to thee, with the Spirit ever be.

Glorify Your Name

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Fa - ther we love you we wor - ship and a - dore you,
5 glo - ri - fy your name in all the earth, glo -
9 ri - fy your name, glo - ri - fy
14 your name, glo - ri - fy your name
19 in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

BENEDICTION • Psalm 22:26

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

~

FOR THOSE JOINING US IN PERSON...

Greetings! In accordance with current state mandates, we are asking people to wear masks and observe “social distancing” (6ft) between households during Worship.

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 (nwcpcnetwork.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.