



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • MAY 2, 2021



THE WORD



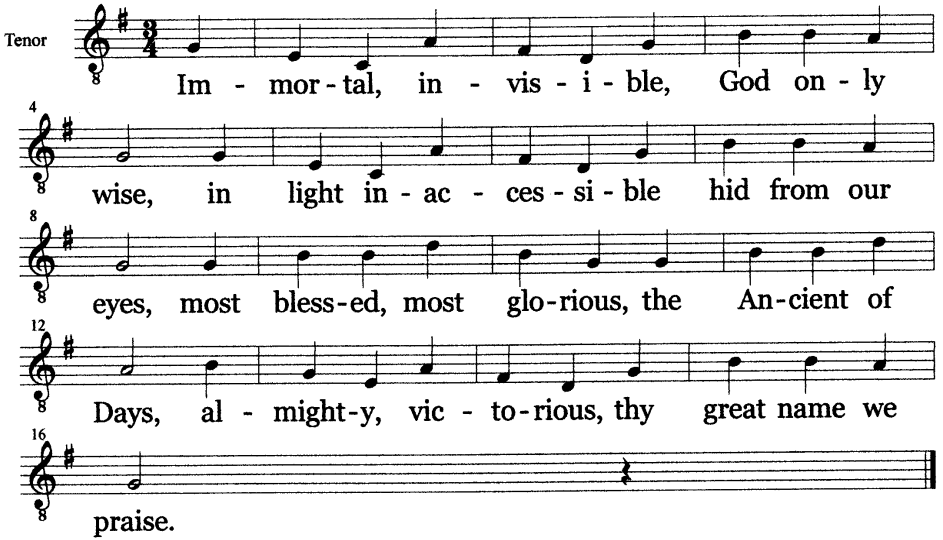
CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 55:1-3a

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.”

Immortal, Invisible

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith • Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh Melody • Public Domain

Tenor



Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly
wise, in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our
eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of
Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we
praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, we are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands. Forgive us for how we have corrupted your good creation. Gracious God, you alone are righteous and holy, and in your presence no sinner can stand. Your mercy is our only hope and we ask for your forgiveness. We pray for your cleansing touch to wash away our corruption, clothe us in righteousness, and for your hands to rework our lives anew. We pray these things in Jesus Christ's holy name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God proves true;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

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 • Romans 8:28–39

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against

God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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...

Our Father, you rule over the nations of the earth in justice and mercy.

Give wisdom to our President and representatives in Congress. Bring peace between the nations of the world. We plead for your mercy on our nation.

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life.

Protect and defend Ascension Church and our sister congregations in and around Portland. Spread your gospel in this place. We ask for protection and prosperity for our city.

Jesus, you are full of compassion.

Relieve the suffering of the poor and oppressed in our city. Bring healing and joy to those who are ill or facing imminent death, and to those who care for them.

Our Father, you have set us here to cultivate and develop your creation.

Please give us delight and diligence in our callings. Provide for those seeking work. Make us a blessing to our city through our work.

And teach us to pray as you taught your 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.

The Lord, My Shepherd

Text: Psalm 23 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor



The Lord my shep-herd rules my life
The Lord re-vives my fail-ing strength,
Though in a val-ley dark as death,
and gives me all I need; He and
He makes my joy com-plete; and
no e-vil makes me fear; Your
leads me by re-fresh-ing streams;
in right paths, for His names sake,
shep-herd's staff pro-tects my way,
in pas-tures green I feed. Your
He guides my fal-ting feet.
for you are with me there.
good-ness and your gra-cious love pur-sue me all my
days; Your house, O Lord, shall be my home, your
name my end-less praise.

While all my enemies look on, you spread a royal feast;
you fill my cup, anoint my head, and treat me as your guest.

(Chorus)

The Lord's My Shepherd

Text: Psalm 23 • Music: J. L. Macbeth Bain • Public Domain

1. The Lord's my Shep - herd, I'll not want, He makes me down to
2. My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth
3. Al - though I walk through death's dark vale yet will I fear none
4. My tab - le Thou hast furn - ish - ed in pres - ence of my
5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my days shall sure - ly fol - low

Chords: C, F, G, F, C, F, G

lie in past - ures green, He lead - eth me the qui - et wat - ers
make with - in the paths of right - eous - ness e'en for His own name's
ill, for Thou art with me and thy rod and staff me com - fort
foes; my head with oil Thou dost a - noint and my cup ov - er -
me, and in my Fath - er's house al - ways my dwel - ling place shall

Chords: C, Am, C, F, G, C, F, G

by; He lead - eth me, He lead - eth me the qui - et wat - ers by.
sake, with in the paths of right - eous - ness e'en for His own name's sake.
still, Thy rod and staff me com - fort still, me com - fort still.
- flows, my head with oil Thou dost a - noint and my cup ov - er - flows.
be; and with my Fath - er ev - er - more my dwel - ling place shall be.

Chords: C, G, C, G, C, Am, G, C, F, C

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ecclesiastes 7:13-18*

13 Consider the work of God:

who can make straight what he has made crooked?

14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

15 In my vaporous life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. 16 Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? 17 Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? 18 It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Consider the Work of God” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, ‘You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.’ Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.’ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.” (Exodus 20:18-21)

“The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’ In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong... ‘Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.” (Job 2:10)

“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.” (Job 42:2)

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.” (Psalm 115:3)

“Truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.” (Acts 4:27-28)

“[God] works all things according to the counsel of his will.” (Ephesians 1:11)

“I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes – that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens – that the chaff from the hand of the winnower is steered as the stars in their courses. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebud is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence – the fall of sere leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche.” (Charles Spurgeon)

* With some differences in translation from the ESV.

AND WE KNOW THAT
GOD
CAUSES ALL THINGS

To Work

TOGETHER FOR GOOD

WHO LOVE GOD
TO THOSE WHO ARE

CALLED

ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

ROMANS 8:28



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him. 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.

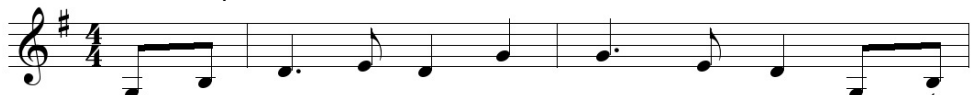
The gifts of God for the people of God.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

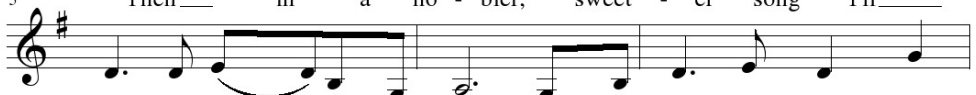
(All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God’s grace to live more faithfully for him in this world. Please come forward after 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].)

There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

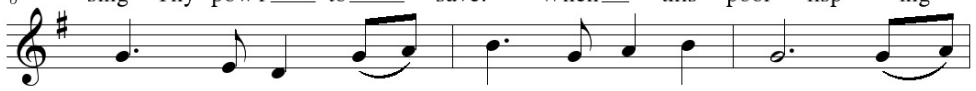
Text: William Cowper • Music: Lowell Mason • Public Domain



There is a foun - tain filled with blood drawn
The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see that
Dear dy - ing Lamb, Thy pre - cious blood shall
For since by faith I saw the stream Thy
3 Then in a no - bler, sweet - er song I'll



from I - man - uels' veins; and sin - ners plunged be -
foun - tain in his day; and there may I though
nev - er lose its power till all the ran - somed
flow - ing wounds sup - ply, Re - deem - ing love has
6 sing Thy pow'r to save: When this poor lisp - ing



neath that flood lose all their guil - ty stains; lose
vile as he, wash all my sins a - way: wash
church of God are saved to sin no more: are
9 been my theme and shall be till I die. And
stamm' ring tongue lies si - lent in the grave. Lies



all their guil - ty stains lose all their guil - ty
all my sins a - way wash all my sins a -
saved to sin no more, are saved to sin no
12 shall be till I die and shall be till I
si - lent in the grave, lies si - lent in the



stains and sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood lose
way; and there may I though vile as he, wash
more; till all the ran - somed church of God are
15 die; Re - deem - ing love has been my theme and
grave; when this poor lisp - ing stamm' - ring tongue lies

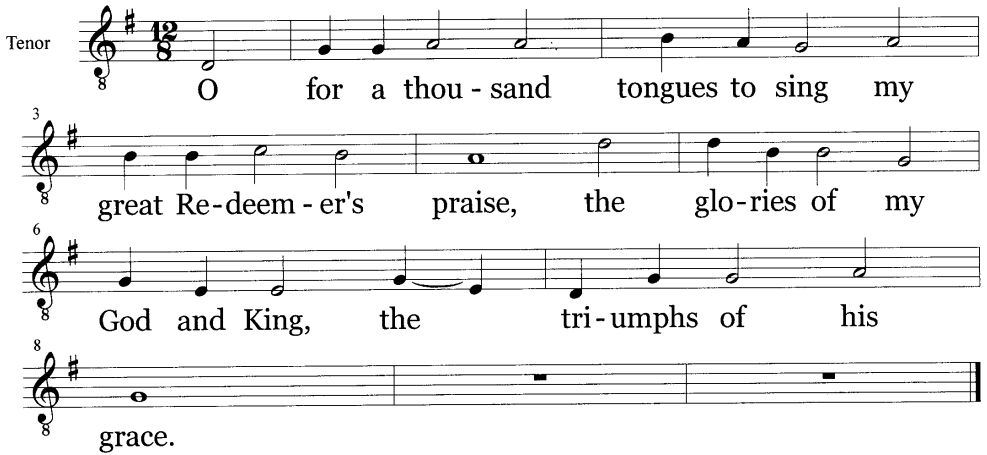


all their guil - ty stains.
all my sins a - way.
saved, to sin no more.
shall be till I die.
si - lent in the grave.

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Carl Glaser • Public Domain

Tenor



O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
great Re-deem - er's praise, the glo-ries of my
God and King, the tri-umphs of his
grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy!

BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:5

May the Lord direct your hearts
to the love of God
and to the steadfastness of Christ.

~

For Those Joining Us In Person... Greetings! We hope that as many people as possible will feel comfortable joining us for Worship. So we're asking everyone to wear a mask and observe "social distancing" (6ft) between households during Worship. During Communion, parents, please distribute the bread and cup to participating children.

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.)

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of the month (today) we participate together in some compassion and relief ministries to help each other and our neighbors in the community...

- ALMS — These gifts go toward a fund the deacons use to meet urgent needs as we are made aware of them. (If you need financial help, please let us know! Contact: deacons@ascensionpc.org.)
- FOOD PANTRY — The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, is an Oregon Food Bank site that serves about 50 families who rely on help like this. Please bring dry beans to donate—let's try to collect 100 items in total!

Coffee Hospitality • We'd like to have someone pour and serve coffee after Worship each Sunday. If you'd like to join the rotation to help with this, contact Holly Elliott (nerdymomma@gmail.com).

Women's Study • Connect on Zoom at 7pm on Mondays to study Paul Miller's book, *A Praying Life*, together. Contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Summer Campout • Fri., Aug. 20 - Sun., Aug. 22 at Beverly Beach State Park. Contact Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com).

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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.