



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • OCTOBER 3, 2021


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Revelation 19:5

From the throne came a voice saying,
“Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great.”

All Praise To God Who Reigns Above

Text: Johann Schultz • Music: *Mit Freuden Zart*, arr. Ascension Presbyterian Church

8 All — praise to God who reigns a - bove the —
What — God's al - might - y pow'r hath made his —
I — cried to him in time of need: Lord —
The — Lord for - sak - eth not his flock, his —
Ye — who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, to —
3 Then — come be - fore His pre - sence now and —

8 God of all cre - a - tion the — God of won - ders
grac - ious mer - cy — keep - eth. By — morn - ing glow or
God, O hear my — call - ing! For — death he gave me
chos - en gen - er - er — a - tion; He — is their re - fuge
God give praise and glo - ry! Ye — who the Fath - er's
6 ba - nish fear and sad - ness; To — your Re - deem - er

8 powr and love, the — God of our sal - va - tion! With
eve - ning shade his — watch - ful eye ne'er — sleep - eth; With -
life in - deed and — kept my feet from — fall - ing. For
and their rock, their — peace and their sal - va - tion. As
pow'r pro - claim, to — God give praise and glo - ry! All
9 pay your vow and — sing with joy and — glad - ness: Though

8 heal - ing balm my soul he fills, the God who ev - ery
in the king - dom of his might, Lo! all is just and
this my thanks shall end - less be; O thank him, thank our
with a moth - er's ten - der hand he leads his own, his
i - dols un - der foot be trod, the Lord is God! The
12 great dis - tress my soul be - fell, the Lord, my God, did

8 sor - row stills. To God all praise and glo - ry!
all is right, To God all praise and glo - ry!
God with me, To God all praise and glo - ry!
cho - sen band. To God all praise and glo - ry!
Lord is God! To God all praise and glo - ry!
all things well, To God all praise and glo - ry!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Romans 1:16–18

I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

CONFESSION OF SIN

*Holy Father, Son, and Spirit,
we have lived in open rebellion
against your gracious rule.*

*Please, Lord Jesus, may we find
our redemption in your passion,
the absolution of our guilt in your condemnation,
the cancellation of our curse in your cross,
the satisfaction for our sins in your sacrifice,
our purification in your blood,
reconciliation to God in your descent into hell,
the death of our flesh in your tomb,
immortality in your resurrection,
our inheritance in your ascension.*

We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 4:3, 23–25

What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”... But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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 • Isaiah 40:3-5

- 3 A voice cries:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
- 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

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 in the heavens, you do all that you please. You are sovereign over everything that you have made. Nothing can thwart your holy will. You have declared the end from the beginning, and you will accomplish all your purpose.

We trust that you love us, and that you order our lives for our good and your glory. Help us where our faith is weak. Grant us peace that passes understanding in the midst of the trials of this life. We rejoice and rest in your perfect, fatherly care.

Please, Father, make the earth more like heaven.

Be present with us through your Holy Spirit. Comfort and heal those who are sick in mind, heart, and body. Revive dead souls to life, and lift up those who are poor in spirit. Provide for those who are seeking work. Bring justice, peace, and prosperity to our community, and to the world. Send your Son again soon to make heaven and earth one.

Until that Day, Father, may your will be done in us and through us.

Not our will but yours be done. May the joy of your salvation be our strength as we seek to live for you. We want to be holy as you are holy; teach us the law of love, and help us to obey you. Change our will to align with your own; help us to love what you love, and to hate what you hate. Make our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to you, our Father who is in heaven. In Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

He Giveth More Grace

Text: Annie Johnson Flint • Music: Hubert Mitchell

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1. He giv - eth more grace when the bur - dens grow great - er; He send - eth more
2. When we have ex - haust - ed our store of en - dur - ance, When our strength has

7 strength when the la - bors in - crease. To add - ed af - flic - tion He add - eth His mer - cy; To
failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoard - ed re - sourc - es, Our

14 mul - ti - plied tri - als, His mul - ti - plied peace. His love has no lim - it; His grace has no
Fath - er's full giv - ing is on - ly be - gun.

21 meas - ure; His pow'r has no boun - da - ry known un - to men. For out of His in - fi - nite

28 rich - es in Je - sus, He giv - eth, and giv - eth, and giv - eth a - gain.

Chords: C, Dm, A7, Dm, F, G, G7, C, Em, C7, F, C, Em, A, A7, Dm, C, G7, C, G, Dm, G, C, F, C, Am, G, G7, C, Em, C7, F, C, A7, Dm, C, G, C

You Are Before Me, Lord

Text: Psalm 139, Ian Pitt-Watson • Music: Trad. Scottish Melody • Public Domain



1.You are be - fore me, Lord, You are be - hind,
2.Then from Your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
3.If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
4.If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
5.Search me, O God, search me and know my heart;



And o - ver me You have spread out Your hand;
And from Your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
If I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
And I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
Try me, O God, my mind and spir - it try;



Such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
If I as - cend to heav - en You are there,
Your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
Sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to You:
Keep me from an - y path that gives You pain,



Too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
And still are with me if in hell I lie.
And Your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
The night is as the day, the dark - ness light.
And lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

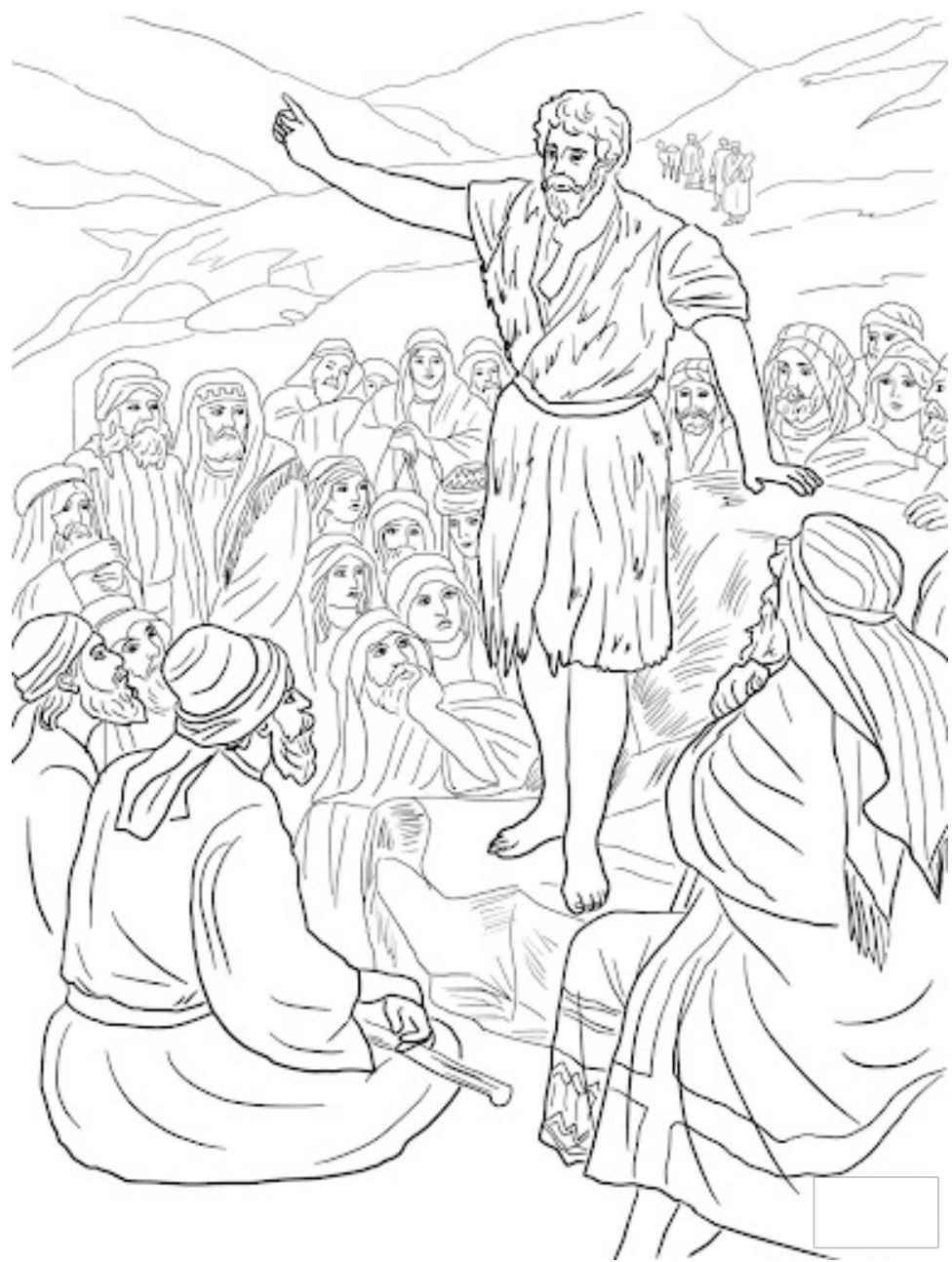
⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Repent!” (Rev. Eric Costa)





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.

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].)

* 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.”

In Mercy Broken

Lyric: Reginald Heber • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Bread of the world, in mer - cy bro -
5 Look on the heart by sor - row bro -
8 ken Wine of the
9 ken Look on the
8 soul, in mer - cy shed
13 tears by sin - ners shed
8 By whom the words of life were spo - ken,
18 And be thy feast to us the to - ken
8 And in whose death our sins are
22 That by thy grace our souls are
8 dead. Al - le - lu -
26 fed. Al - le - lu -
8 ia! Al - le - lu -
31 ia!

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a Tenor voice part. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a variety of note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests. There are repeat signs at the end of the 22nd and 31st staves. The lyrics are: 'Bread of the world, in mercy broken, Look on the heart by sorrow broken, Wine of the soul, in mercy shed tears by sinners shed, By whom the words of life were spoken, And be thy feast to us the token, And in whose death our sins are That by thy grace our souls are dead. Al-le-lu-fed. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!'.

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

The wicked all prosper, and firm is their health;
they suffer no pangs as they gather their wealth.
They never are troubled with sickness or pain,
but boast to all others of ill-gotten gain.

(Chorus)

They question God's knowledge and boldly defy
the might and the justice of God the Most High.
The wicked grow wealthy, have comfort and peace,
while I, daily chastened, see troubles increase.

(Chorus)

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)

BENEDICTION • Revelation 22:12-13, 21 (responsive)

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me,
to repay each one for what he has done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end...”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

~

For Those Joining Us in Person... Greetings! We're glad you're here! Our access to God the Father, our relationship in Christ, our unity in the Spirit is the most important thing in the world. We hope that as many people as possible will feel comfortable joining us for Worship, so we're asking everyone to wear a mask while indoors. Whether or not this is an inconvenience to you, please extend patience and grace to each other during this time when we might have differing opinions on what it means to faithfully respond to God in our love for each other.

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.)

After Worship Today • About 15 minutes after Worship, children will gather in the sanctuary for Sunday School, and adults are welcome to join the Sermon Discussion in the Fellowship Hall.

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each 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!*

Newcomers' Lunch • Sun., Oct. 3, after Worship and Sunday School, at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street, Hillsboro, 97123). We're hosting a lunch for new folks and those interested in becoming members of Ascension. It's a good chance to meet the Elders, get to know each other a bit, and ask questions about the church. RSVP (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

Women's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., Oct. 22-24, in Lincoln City. The cost will be \$90 per person. For more details, and to register, contact Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com).

Men's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., Nov. 12-14, in Lincoln City. The cost will be \$90 per person. For more details, and to register, contact Brian Aznoe (baznoe@gmail.com).

Setup Help • We would like more volunteers to help with setup and takedown for Worship on Sundays. Please contact Bill Duncan if you can help (bduncan47@gmail.com).

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.