



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • OCTOBER 31, 2021
REFORMATION SUNDAY



CALL TO WORSHIP • 1 Chronicles 16:28-30
Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

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 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written 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 • 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, you sent Jesus to be for us the way, the truth, and the life. We confess that we have turned aside to our own way, have ignored your precious word, and have sought to find happiness outside of your will and apart from you. In your mercy forgive us. We would flee to no other refuge, build on no other foundation, receive from no other fullness, rest in no other relief; but alone entrust ourselves to Jesus' saving power, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Acts 2:44-45

All who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

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 • Deuteronomy 8:1-10

“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make

you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you."

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 Trinity For Eternity

Text: Catherine Winkworth • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now, our
Un - seal our lips, to sing your praise, our
5 Un - til we join the hosts that cry, "Ho-
8 hearts in true de - vo - tion bow.
souls to you in wor - ship raise.
9 ly are you! O Lord most high!"
8 Your Spi - rit send, with grace di - vine, and
Make strong our faith, in - crease our light, that
13 And in the light of that blest place, for -
8 let your truth with - in us shine. Glo - ry
we may know your name a - right.
18 e'er be - hold you face to face.
8 to God! The Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!
23 To You, Lord all praise! The Trin - i - ty,
28 for e - ter - ni - ty!

Be Still, My Soul

Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752 • Music: *Finlandia*, arr. Jean Sibelius • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your
4 Be still, my soul: your God will un - der
8 Be still, my soul: when dear - est friends de -
8 side; _____ bear pa - tient - ly the
4 take _____ to guide the - fu - ture
7 part, _____ and all is dark - ened
8 cross of grief or pain; _____ leave to your
10 as he has the of past, _____ Your hope, your
8 in the vale of tears, _____ then shall you
8 God to or - der and pro - vide; _____
13 con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; _____
8 bet - ter know his love, his heart, _____
8 _____ in ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re -
16 _____ all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
8 _____ who come to soothe your sor - row and your
8 main. _____ Be still, my soul: your
19 last. _____ Be still, my soul: the
8 fears. _____ Be still, my soul: your
8 best, your heav'n - ly Friend _____ through thorn - y
22 waves and winds still know _____ his voice who
8 Je - sus can re - pay _____ from his own
8 ways _____ leads to a joy - ful end.
8 ruled _____ them while he dwelt be - low.
8 full - ness all he takes a - way.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,"

and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve."

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • "The New Man" (Rev. Eric Costa)

^{2:15} The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ...

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate...

²⁴ [God] drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6, 24)

"Jesus is able to resist the devil, a devil able to quote scripture, by being a superior exegete to the one who would tempt him. Jesus [is] the faithful interpreter of Israel's scripture." (Stanley Hauerwas)





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.”

From The Depth Of Woe (Psalm 130)

Text: Martin Luther (Based on Psalm 130) • Music: ©1997 Christopher Miner

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: "From the depths of woe I raise to Thee the voice of lam - en - ta - tion; Lord turn a gra - cious ear to me and hear my sup - pli - ca - tion. If Thou in - i - qui - ties dost mark, our se - cret sins and mis - deeds dark, O who shall stand be - fore Thee? O who shall stand be - fore Thee?"

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee the
voice of lam - en - ta - tion; Lord
turn a gra - cious ear to me and hear
my sup - pli - ca - tion. If Thou in - i - qui - ties dost
mark, our se - cret sins and mis - deeds dark, O who
shall stand be - fore Thee?
O who shall stand be - fore Thee?

To wash away the crimson stain grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! are all in vain, in much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in thy sight, all must alike confess thy might,
And live alone by mercy.

Therefore my trust is in the Lord and not in my own merit;
On him my soul shall rest, his Word upholds my fainting spirit:
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort and my sweet support:
I wait for it with patience.

And though I wait the whole night through and till the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in his might, it doubteth not nor feareth:
Do thus, O you of Israel's seed, you of the Spirit born indeed;
And wait till God appeareth.

Though great our sins and sore our woes, his grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.
Our shepherd good and true is he, who will at last his Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.

God Of My Life

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800) • Music: Benj Pocta, Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy
©2007 Red Mountain Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God Of My Life'. It consists of eight staves of music, each with a vocal line and lyrics underneath. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: 'God of my life to Thee I call; Friend of the friend-less and the faint; That were a grief I could not bear, Af - flict - ed at Thy feet I fall; where should I lodge my deep com - plaint? didst Thou not hear and an - swer prayer; When the great wa - ter floods pre - - veil, Where but with Thee whose o - pen door, But a prayer hear - ing, an - swer - ing God, Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail. In - vites the help - less and the poor? sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load. Poor though I am, des - pised, for - got, Yet God, my God, for - gets me not; And he is safe, and must suc - ceed, for whom, the Lord is sure to plead.'

God of my life to Thee I call;
Friend of the friend-less and the faint,
That were a grief I could not bear,
Af - flict - ed at Thy feet I fall;
where should I lodge my deep com - plaint?
didst Thou not hear and an - swer prayer;
When the great wa - ter floods pre - - veil,
Where but with Thee whose o - pen door,
But a prayer hear - ing, an - swer - ing God,
Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail.
In - vites the help - less and the poor?
sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load.
Poor though I am, des - pised, for -
got, Yet God, my God, for - gets me not;
And he is safe, and must suc - ceed, for whom, the
Lord is sure to plead.

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'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 (Nov. 7) 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!*

Missionary Visit • Several of you know Betsy Lawler, who serves with Serge (serge.org) leading the apprenticeship program in southern Spain. Betsy will visit with us next Sunday (Nov. 7), and give a presentation about her work after Worship.

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).

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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.