



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • APRIL 23, 2023



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 30:4-5

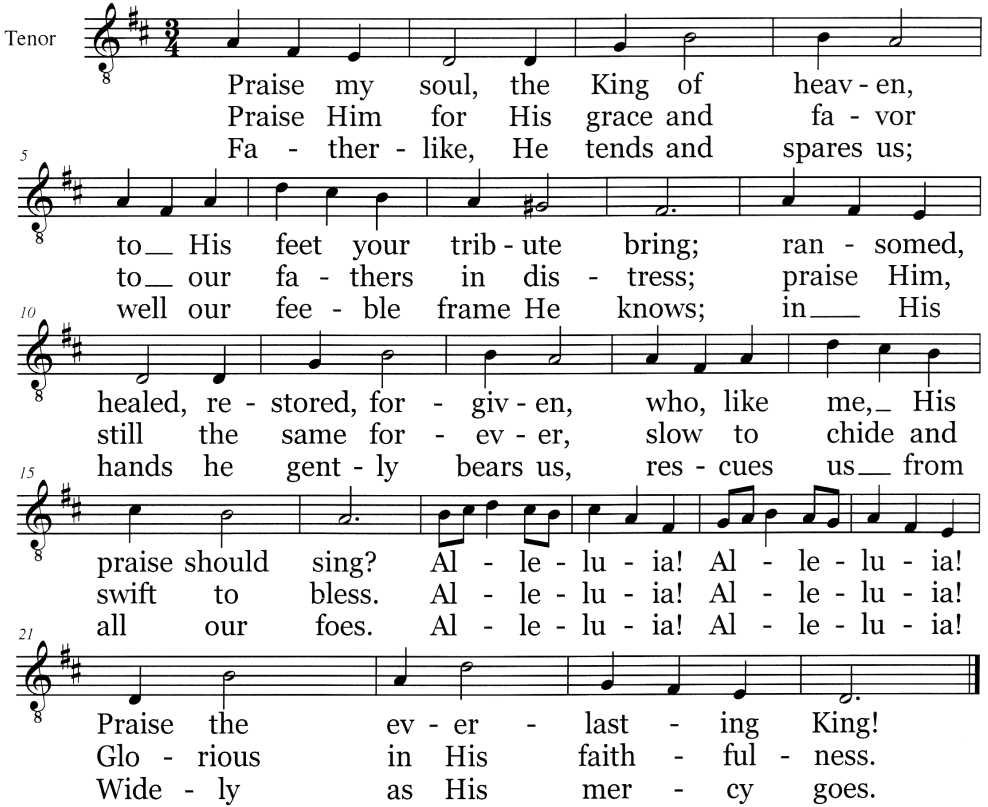
Sing praises to Yahweh¹, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

¹ The ESV translates God's personal name, Yahweh, as "the LORD" (small caps).

Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven

Text: Henry F. Lyte • Music: Mark Andrews • Public Domain

Tenor



8 Praise my soul, the King of heav-en,
Praise Him for His grace and fa-vor
5 Fa-ther-like, He tends and spares us;
8 to His feet your trib-ute bring; ran-somed,
to our fa-thers in dis-tress; praise Him,
10 well our fee-ble frame He knows; in His
8 healed, re-stored, for-giv-en, who, like me, His
still the same for-ev-er, slow to chide and
15 hands he gent-ly bears us, res-cues us from
8 praise should sing? Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
swift to bless. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
21 all our foes. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
8 Praise the ev-er-last-ing King!
Glo-ri-ous in His faith-ful-ness.
Wide-ly as His mer-cy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the High Eternal One!

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Psalm 145:8-9

Yahweh is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Yahweh is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Father, relieve our consciences, now and in the hour of our death, from the terror of our guilt and the fear of your judgment. Let your peace come into our hearts that we may await your judgment with joy. Teach us, dear Father, not to trust or find comfort in our own merits or good works. But teach us to venture and resign ourselves faithfully and firmly to your infinite mercy. In the same manner, let us not lose courage because of our guilty and sinful lives. Let us regard your mercy as higher and broader and stronger than all our being. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Psalm 145:18-20

Yahweh is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
Yahweh preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Ephesians 4:28; 5:2

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need... Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to 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.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ezekiel 36:22-29

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord Yahweh: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am Yahweh, declares the Lord Yahweh, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses.”

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 heaven, you are over all and through all and in all. All things come from you. We exist for you.

We praise you for all your works, especially in our creation and redemption.

Holy Father, no one has ever seen you, except the One who is at your side.

We thank you for making yourself known to us through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Eternal Father, you loved the Son before the foundation of the world. By your grace you have loved us even as you have loved him.

We love you because you first loved us. We want to know you and love you even as your Son knows you and loves you.

Merciful Father, you did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all.
We believe that you sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive our sins.

Father of glory, you raised your Son from the dead, and you have given all things into his hands.

We tremble at your power over life and death. We submit to the authority of your Son.

Father, you have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

We adore you for adopting us as your sons and daughters through Christ. We rejoice that you have qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you.

We thank you for your daily care for our physical needs. Please keep our hearts from loving the gifts more than the Giver.

Father of spirits, what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

We trust that you love us, and that you are forming Christ in us through our temporary sufferings. Please have mercy on us in the weakness of our faith, and make us ready for heaven.

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows, you love justice and mercy.

We want to be more like you. Please help us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to put their needs before our own.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to pray as your Son taught His 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.

Come, Holy Ghost

Text: Rhabanus Maurus (A.D. 776-856); chorus by Ray Mills (2005)

Music: Bruce Benedict & Ray Mills

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1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest,
5 O com - fort - er, to Thee we cry,
and in our hearts take up Thy rest;
9 Thou heav'n - ly gift of God most high;
14 Come with Thy grace and heav'n-ly aid to fill our
Thou fount of life, and fire of love, and sweet an -
18 hearts which Thou hast made, to fill our
noint - ing from a - bove, and sweet a -
23 hearts which Thou hast made. Be not a -
noint - ting from a - bove.
fraid, where you go there I am with you.

O Holy Ghost, through thee alone know we the Father and the Son;
be this our firm, unchanging creed, that thou dost from them both proceed,
that thou dost from them both proceed.

(Chorus x2)

Praise we the Lord, Father and Son, and Holy Spirit with them one;
and may the Son on us bestow all gifts that from the Spirit flow,
all gifts that from the Spirit flow.

(Chorus x2)

Who Is Like The Lord, Our God? (Psalm 113)

Text: Wendell Kimbrough • Music: Bruce Benedict & Wendell Kimbrough • © 2013 Cardiphonia Music

Our Fa - ther_ He lifts from the
ash - es, _ He rais - es_ the poor and_ the lost. _ He
seats them to dine at_ His ta - ble, _ to
feast with - out mon - ey_ or cost. _ The
lone - ly_ He set - tles_ in fam - 'lies, _ the
bar - ren, _ a mo - ther_ He makes. _ O
hap - py_ the heart of_ the stran - ger_ who's
wel - comed by this King_ of Grace. Who is like the
Lord our God? Who with glo - ry fills the sky? But
hum - bles_ Him - self with the bro - ken_ to dwell,
who is like our God?

Though equal to God in his glory, Christ Jesus became like a slave;
he humbled himself in obedience to death, and the cross, and the grave.

Victorious, he rose to the highest; in glory, the Savior was raised.
His name above all names exalted; the heavens and earth sing his praise.

*Who is like the Lord, our God? Who with glory fills the sky?
But humbles himself with the broken to dwell, who is like our God?*

O saints, fix your eyes on the Savior and count all your righteousness loss.
Be found in his love and his favor, and share in his death on the cross.

That all of his power in vict'ry, imparted to you, may abound;
and sharing the sufferings of Jesus, you share in his glory and crown.

*Who is like the Lord, our God? Who with glory fills the sky?
But humbles himself with the broken to dwell, who is like our God?*

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 15:1-2, 10-20

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” ...

¹⁰ And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.” ¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” ¹⁶ And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “The Core Problem” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that Yahweh has spoken to them by Moses.” (Leviticus 10:10-11)

“Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

“Who can say, ‘I have made my heart pure;
I am clean from my sin?’” (Proverbs 20:9)

“He who loves purity of heart,
and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.” (Proverbs 22:11)

“The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?

‘I Yahweh search the heart
and test the mind,
to give every man according to his ways,
according to the fruit of his deeds.’” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:19-22)



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.¹ 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 catholic² 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].)

¹ 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.

² Or, “universal.”

The Love of God

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



1.The love of God is great - er far than tongue or pen— can ev - er
2.When years of time shall pass a - way, and earth - ly thrones and king - domes
3.Could we with ink the o - ceans fill, and were the skies— of parch - ment



tell; It goes be - yond— the high - est star, and reach - es to— the low - est
fall; When men, who here— re - fuse to pray, on rocks and hills— and moun - tains
made, were ev - 'ry stalk— on earth a quill, and ev - 'ry man— a scribe by



hell; The guil - ty pair,— bowed down with care,— God gave His Son— to
call, God's love so sure,— shall— en - dure,— all mea - sure - less— and
trade, to write the love— of God a - bove,— would drain the o - - cean



win;— His er - ring child— He rec - on - ciled, and par - doned from his
strong;— re - deem - ing grace— to A - dam's race; the saints and— ang - els
dry;— Nor could the scroll— con - tain the whole, the stretched from— sky to



sin. O love of God,—how rich and pure!— How mea - sure - less and strong! It shall for -
song.
sky.



- ev - er - more— en - dure— the saints and an - gels— song.

I Lay My Sins On Jesus

Text: Horatius Bonar (1843)

Music: Bartholomaeus Gesius (1605) • Public Domain

I lay my sins _____ on Je - sus, the
I lay my needs _____ on Je - sus; all
I rest my soul _____ on Je - sus, this
I long to be _____ like Je - sus, meek,

3
spot - less Lamb _____ of God; he bears them all, _____ and
ful - ness dwells _____ in him; he heals all my _____ dis -
wea - ry soul _____ of mine; his right hand me _____ em -
lov - ing, low - ly, mild; I long to be _____ like

6
frees us from the ac - curs - ed load: I
eas - es, he doth my soul _____ re - deem: I
brac - es, I on his breast _____ re - cline. I
Je - sus, the Fa - ther's ho - ly child: I

9
bring my guilt _____ to _____ Je - sus to wash _____ my crim - son
lay my griefs _____ on _____ Je - sus, my bur - dens and _____ my
love the name _____ of _____ Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, _____ the
long to be _____ with _____ Je - sus a - mid _____ the heav'n - ly

12
stains white in his blood _____ most pre - cious, till
cares; he from them all _____ re - leas - es, he
Lord; like fra - grance on _____ the breez - es his
throng, to sing with saints _____ his prais - es, to

15
not a spot _____ re - mains.
all my sor - rows shares.
name a - broad _____ is poured.
learn the an - gels' song.

BENEDICTION • 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely,
and may your whole spirit and soul and body
be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

~

After Worship Today • Join us around 11:30 for Sunday School (kids) and Sermon Discussion (adults).

Men's Study • 6:30am Wednesdays at Starbucks (16175 SW Walker Road, Beaverton). This group is surveying the Bible using *The Drama of Scripture* by C. Bartholomew and M. W. Goheen. Contact: Rob Stevenson (robert.james.stevenson@gmail.com) for more information.

Women's Studies:

- 2pm Wednesdays. Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com).
- 7pm Thursdays. Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

"The Ascenders" • 6:30pm - 8pm Wednesdays. 6th through 12th graders are encouraged to come, and to invite their friends. Contact: Tim Sery (fiby2020@gmail.com).

Church Campout • Aug. 18-20 at Detroit Lake. The church has reserved eight campsites, and the cost is \$50 per site. To register, and for more info, contact Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com).

Shepherding Meetings • The elders want to check in with the members of the church. We like to use these questions to kickstart our conversations: 1) *What are you thankful for?* 2) *Where are you seeing the grace of God at work in your life?* 3) *How can we as elders (or the deacons) serve you?*

We're available for these meetings on a regular basis on the third Sunday of each month for lunch or dinner. To schedule a shepherding meeting with us on one of these Sundays, or during some other time, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (pcanet.org)

Our Presbytery (pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com)

Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpcnetwork.com)

Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org)

Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF (omf.org/asia/taiwan)

Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge (serge.org)

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)

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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.