

PUBLIC WORSHIP • AUGUST 13, 2023



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to Yahweh¹; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For Yahweh is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

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

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Text: Joachim Neander • Music: Ernewerten Gesangbuch • Public Domain



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Fountain of Living Waters, you give to all mankind life and breath and everything. But we have refused to honor you or give you thanks. We stubbornly pretend that we don't need you, that we can help ourselves. We actively resist your presence and will in our lives. We thoughtlessly ignore you, which may be the worst slight of all. Yet you remain a God of light and life and love, and, in your grace, you have invaded this world to save us from ourselves. Your presence and will, as seen in Jesus, is better than our autonomy. We are sorry for our foolish rebellion. Please forgive us, and fix our eyes on Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

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 • Psalm 2

- Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yahweh and against his Anointed, saying,
- ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."
- ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
- Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
 and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- 6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
- ⁷ I will tell of the decree:
 - Yahweh said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
- ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
- You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
- Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- 11 Serve Yahweh with fear,
- and rejoice with trembling.
 ¹² Kiss the Son,
- lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.
 - Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

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...

Most gracious God, who has promised to reveal his glory among all nations,

hear us as we pray for your church. Bless all the ministers of your word and sacraments and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God of our fathers, who has promised to take care of our every need, give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons. Grant all in authority over us wisdom and strength to do your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most merciful Father, comfort all who believe the good news of your grace. We pray for all who are distressed: the poor, the homeless, the sick, the bereaved, and those afflicted in body and mind. Comfort and relieve them according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now, as our Savior taught us, we pray:

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.

Lord I Want To Be A Christian In My Heart



I Hunger And I Thirst

Text: John S. B. Monsell, Matthew H. Curl Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



For still the desert lies my thirsting soul before; O living waters rise within me evermore. I hunger and I thirst, Jesus my manna be!

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord! Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 16:13-28

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

SERMON • "Confessing the Christ" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.' (John 20:21-23)

"You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades." (Revelation 1:17-18)



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 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."

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Lord,

un ·

Music: William M. Runyan • Lyric: Thomas O. Chisolm • ©1923/1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Tenor

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev-er wilt

be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see: all I have

need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed, Great is thy faith-ful-ness,

great is thy faith-ful-ness,

Great is thy faith-ful-ness,

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

to

me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten-thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see: all I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



George Matheson, 1882

ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.8.6. Albert L. Peace, 1885

BENEDICTION • 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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Sunday School • Are you interested in serving the children/youth of our congregation? You could help with Sunday School! We plan to get started again in September, so now is the time to coordinate volunteers. 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).

Church Picnic • Sun., Aug. 27, after Worship, at the Walnut Street Park.

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).

PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (pcanet.org)
Our Presbytery (pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com)
Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpnetwork.com)
Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org)
Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF (omf.org/asia/taiwan)
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Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)

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	ascensionpc.	org
(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.