

PUBLIC WORSHIP • SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



### CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 96:7-9

Ascribe to Yahweh<sup>1</sup>, O families of the peoples, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength!
Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!
Worship Yahweh in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The ESV translates God's personal name, Yahweh, as "the LORD" (small caps).

### In Christ Alone

Text & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend • ©2001 Thankyou Music



No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand; 'till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

#### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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

#### CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Luke 23:39-41

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Creator God, you have given us everything we have, including our very selves. Yet we have refused to receive what we have as gifts, because we have rejected you as the Giver. We have been ungrateful. We have boasted as if we were self-made and self-sufficient. We have hoarded our wealth, not believing in your future generosity. We have gratified ourselves and consumed as much as we can without sharing. We have withheld ourselves from you and others, because we do not delight in giving like you do. But you live forever as Giver, Gift, and Given, and you have even given yourself to us. In your mercy, forgive us. In your grace, fill us with your Gift-life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Luke 23:42-43**

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

May the peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you!* 

## **OFFERING • 1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

Concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.

### **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 32:4-6, 18-20

- 4 "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.
  - A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
- They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.
- Do you thus repay Yahweh,
   you foolish and senseless people?
   Is not he your father, who created you,
   who made you and established you? ...
- <sup>18</sup> "You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.
- 19 "Yahweh saw it and spurned them, because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters.
- And he said, 'I will hide my face from them;
  I will see what their end will be,
  for they are a perverse generation,
  children in whom is no faithfulness.'"

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...

(From David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

Blessed are you, O Yahweh, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all.

In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

And we pray your beloved Son's prayer:

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.

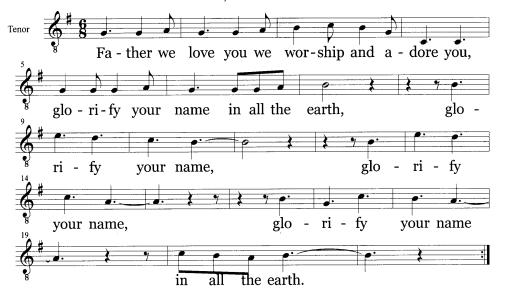
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment



# **Glorify Your Name**

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you, glorify your name in all the earth.

Glorify your name, glorify your name, glorify your name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you, glorify your name in all the earth.

Glorify your name, glorify your name, glorify your name in all the earth.

### GOSPEL READING • Matthew 17:14-23

And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, <sup>15</sup> said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. <sup>16</sup> And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." <sup>18</sup> And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. <sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" <sup>20</sup> He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

<sup>22</sup> As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, <sup>23</sup> and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

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

**SERMON • "A Twisted Generation" (Rev. Eric Costa)** 

"But now thus says Yahweh,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
'Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am Yahweh your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.'" (Isaiah 43:1-3)



# 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.

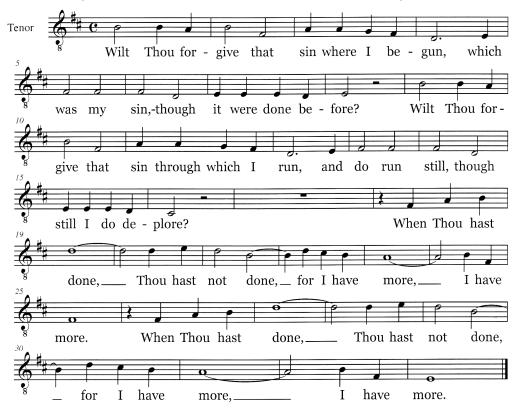
The gifts of God for the people of God.

#### 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].)

## A Hymn To God The Father

A Poem by John Donne • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won others to sin, and made my sin their door? Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun a year or two, but wallow'd in a score?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more, I have more. (2x)

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun my last thread, I shall perish on the shore; but swear by thyself, that at my death thy sun shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.

And, having done that, thou hast done. I fear no more. I fear no more. (2x)

## God Is The Strength Of My Heart

He

is

the strength



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.

my heart the good

more!

the pure.

and

of

(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 • Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~

**Mercy Sunday** • On the first Sunday of each month (today) we collect *Alms*, gifts of mercy that the deacons can 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.)

**Sunday School •** Next Sunday (Sept. 10) after Worship we will restart Sunday School for the kids and Sermon Discussion for the adults. We could still use a few more helpers for the classes!

**Youth Group** • We plan to start our weekly (Wednesday evening) meeting again for 6th through 12th graders in early October. A week or so before we start, we'll have a planning meeting for adults who want to be involved—if you're interested in being part of that, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

Women's Retreat • Nov. 3-5 (Fri. - Sun.). Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@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).

#### **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)
Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge (serge.org)
Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

	>
ascension	npc.org
(Drop this contact card in the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)	
Name(s)  Email / Phone	<ul> <li>[ ] I am a visitor.</li> <li>[ ] I want to know more about being a Christian.</li> <li>[ ] I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.</li> <li>[ ] Please send me the email newsletter.</li> <li>[ ] Please use this info for the photo directory.</li> </ul>