

PUBLIC WORSHIP • SEPTEMBER 24, 2023



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 99:1-5

Yahweh¹ reigns, let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
Yahweh is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!
The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
Exalt Yahweh our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

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

All Praise To God Who Reigns Above

Text: Johann Schultz

Music: Mit Freuden Zart, arr. Ascension Presbyterian Church



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Acts 3:19-21

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Blessed Trinity, you dwell in the sheer delight of eternal communion. You are the Lord of joy, and you have made us and blessed us to share your joy in relationship with you. But we have sought our happiness apart from you, in the things you have made, in the works of our own hands, in anything and everything but you. Nevertheless, Lord Jesus, it was your pleasure to welcome us back into your own joy, even though it meant your death to do so. Even though we don't deserve it, please forgive us and restore to us the joy of your salvation. Make your own joy to be our strength. Grant that our greatest delight would be in knowing you and making you known, to the glory of your Blessed Name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Acts 5:30-31

"The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."

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 • Leviticus 19:17-18

"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am Yahweh."

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...

(Te Deum Laudamus, 5th Century)

You are God.

We praise you!

You are the Lord. We acclaim you!

You are the eternal Father. *All creation worships you!*

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might, Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory!

The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you.

Father, of majesty unbounded, Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free, you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory. We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting. *Amen*.

The Lord, My Shepherd

Text: Psalm 23 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

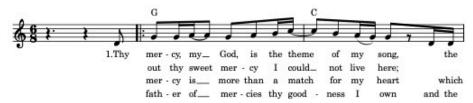


While all my enemies look on, you spread a royal feast; you fill my cup, anoint my head, and treat me as your guest. (Chorus)

Thy Mercy, My God

Lyrics: John Stoker • Music: Sandra McCracken

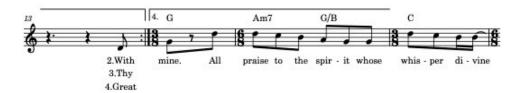
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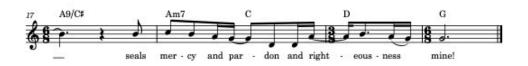






- its re-vive and he that first made me still keeps.....me live.
- to the ground and weep for the praise of the mer cy found.
- per di vine seals mer cy and par don and right eous ness





GOSPEL READING • Matthew 18:15-20

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

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

SERMON • "Discipline" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, Yahweh your God disciplines you." (Deuteronomy 8:5)

"Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal." (Job 5:17-18)

"Yahweh is my shepherd... Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:1, 4)

"My son, do not despise Yahweh's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for Yahweh reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." (Proverbs 3:11-12)

"Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." (Proverbs 13:24)

"When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 5:4-5)

"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:1-2)

"It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:7-11)

"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent." (Revelation 3:19)



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

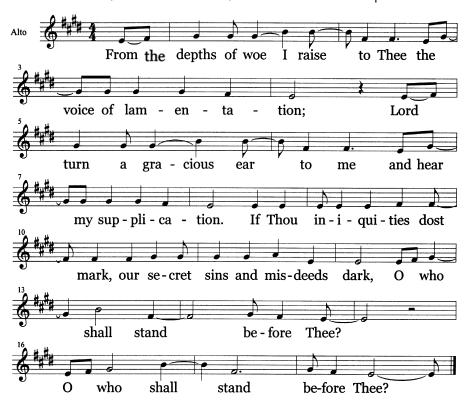
(All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God's grace to live more faithfully for him in this world. Please come forward after 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."

From The Depth Of Woe (Psalm 130)

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



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.

I Lay My Sins On Jesus

Text: Horatius Bonar (1843)

Music: Bartholomaeus Gesius (1605) • Public Domain



BENEDICTION • 1 Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.

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"Last Sunday" Home Group • After Worship today, instead of Sunday School, we'll meet at the home of Joe and Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany Street, Tigard) for lunch and a discussion of Tim Keller's book, Forgive (Intro + Ch. 1).

Midweek Studies

- Beaverton-area Men's Study, details TBA. Contact: Joe Pope (pope.joe@gmail.com).
- 8:15am Tue. Men's Study of the Book of Judges, at Longbottom Coffee. Contact: Eric Costa.
- 7pm Thu. Women's Study of *Jesus through the Eyes of Women,* by Rebecca McLaughlin. Contact: Holly McGarry (hollykliewer8@gmail.com).

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (Oct. 1) 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.)

Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Oct. 7, at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street, Hillsboro). We'll share a potluck breakfast together, then discuss "the Benediction" as an element of our liturgy. Contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com)

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.

Women's Retreat • Nov. 3-5 (Fri. - Sun.) in Lincoln City. The cost is \$75—make checks payable to Ascension with "women's retreat" in the memo line. 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)

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ascension	npc.org
(Drop this contact card in the off	ering, 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.