



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • OCTOBER 15, 2023



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 105:1-3

Oh give thanks to Yahweh¹; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek Yahweh rejoice!

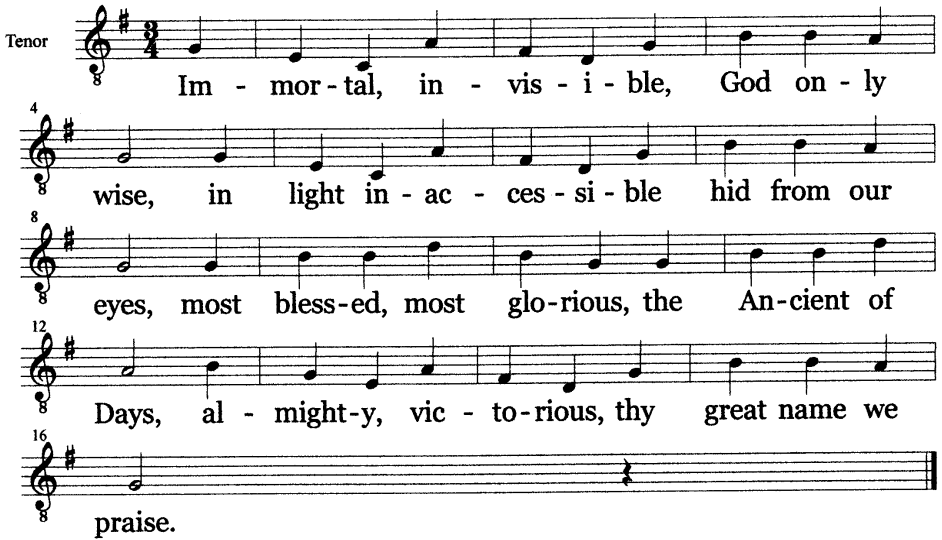
¹ The ESV translates God's personal name, Yahweh, as "the LORD" (small caps).

Immortal, Invisible

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith

Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh Melody • Public Domain

Tenor



Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly
wise, in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our
eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of
Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we
praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Romans 3:23-25

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbor, in thought and word and deed, in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done, through our ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing 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 • Genesis 48:13-20

Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. ¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph and said,

“The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,
¹⁶ the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys;
and in them let my name be carried on,
and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;
and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

¹⁷ When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.” ¹⁹ But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.” ²⁰ So he blessed them that day, saying,

“By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying,
‘God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.’”

Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.

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...

Almighty God who is from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amidst the conflicts of this world, the comfort of a perfect trust in you.

We lament the pride, selfishness, greed, and anger that lead to war among brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as war among nations.

Save and help us, O Lord.

For all who are afflicted by war within themselves, by the conflicts of doubt, a rebellious will, and the darkness of despair:

Save and help us, O Lord.

For all who suffer in body and circumstance, the sick, the poor, and the prisoner, that they would be touched by your compassion in their time of need:

Save and help us, O 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.

I, Even I, Will Sing Unto The Lord

Text: Amy Carmichael

Music: Edward J. Hopkins • © 1960 Dohnavur Fellowship

F C7 F

1. I, ev - en I, will sing un - to the Lord, For ev - er
2. Where dark - ness was, He said, Let there be light; I saw the
3. Shep - herd of Is - rael, what can baf - fle Love, Or cause Di -
4. Love, on - ly Love, these night - y things can do, What Love has

6 Dm G7 C C7 F Gm

and for ev - er the A - dored; I, ev - en I, though
blind re - cei - ving heav'n - ly sight. His mir - a - cles are
- vine com - pas - sion to re - move? Out of a fall, Love
pur - posed, Love will car - ry through. I, ev - en I will

11 C7 F Dm Bb C7 F

I be dust, will sing To Him who ev - en now is tri - umph - ing.
with us once a - gain; O worth - y is the Lamb that has been slain.
makes a step - ping stone, And quite re - vers - es all the foe has done.
sing un - to the Lord, For ev - er and for ev - er the A - dored.

You Are Before Me, Lord

Text: Psalm 139, Ian Pitt-Watson

Music: Trad. Scottish Melody • Public Domain



1.You are be - fore me, Lord, You are be - hind,
2.Then from Your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
3.If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
4.If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
5.Search me, O God, search me and know my heart;



And o - ver me You have spread out Your hand;
And from Your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
If I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
And I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
Try me, O God, my mind and spir - it try;



Such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
If I as - cend to heav - en You are there,
Your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
Sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to You:
Keep me from an - y path that gives You pain,



Too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
And still are with me if in hell I lie.
And Your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
The night is as the day, the dark - ness light.
And lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 19:13-30

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went away.

¹⁶ And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷ And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸ He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰ The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” ²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³ And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” ²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” ²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “The First Last, and the Last First” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“When Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—she was told, ‘The older will serve the younger.’” (Romans 9:10-12)



THE UPPER ROOM



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].)

In Sweet Communion

Text: Psalm 73

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 In sweet com - mun - ion Lord with you, I
Your coun - sel through my earth - ly way shall
Though flesh and heart should faint and fail, the
To live a - part from God is death, 'tis

3
8 con - stant - ly a - bide my hand you hold with -
guide me and con - trol; and then to glo - ry
Lord will ev - er be the strength and por - tion
good His face to seek; my re - fuge is the

6
8 in your own, to keep me near your side Al - le -
af - ter - ward you will re - ceive my soul.
of my heart, my God e - ter - nal - ly.
liv - ing God, His praise I long to speak.

9
8 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - ia Al - le -

13
8 lu - ia, - Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - ia

May Jesus Christ Be Praised

Text: Common Book of Prayer

Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Used by Permission

Tenor

8
When morn-ing gilds the skies, — my
3 When sleep her peace de - nies, — my
8 heart a - wake-ing cries; — A - like at work and prayer,
6 si - lent spi - rit sighs; — When ev - il thoughts mo - lest, —
8 — on Christ I cast my cares; — May
9 — with this I shield my breast; May
8 Je - sus Christ be praised! May Je - sus Christ be praised!
12 Je - sus Christ be praised! May Je - sus Christ be praised!
8 — To God, the Word, on high, — the
15 — In Heav'n's e - ter - nal bliss, — the
8 host of an - gels cry. — May Je - sus Christ be praised!
18 love-liest strain is this! —
8 — May Je - sus Christ be praised! My
21 God, the Sav - ior reigns! May Je - sus Christ be praised! —
8

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find;
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this, while life is mine, my love, my song divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!
My God, the Savior, reigns! May Jesus Christ be praised!

BENEDICTION • Acts 20:32

And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

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

Midweek Studies

- 8:15am Tue. Men's Study of the Book of Judges, at Longbottom Coffee. Contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).
- Wed. morning Beaverton-area Men's Study, details TBA. Contact: Joe Pope (pope.joe@gmail.com).
- 1:30pm Wed. Women's Study of *Jesus through the Eyes of Women*, by Rebecca McLaughlin. Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com).
- 7pm Thu. Women's Study of *Jesus through the Eyes of Women*, by Rebecca McLaughlin. Contact: Holly McGarry (hollyklier8@gmail.com).

Youth Group • We plan to start our weekly (Wednesday evening) meeting again for 6th through 12th graders on Wed., Oct. 18. Contact: Tim Sery (fiby2020@gmail.com).

"Last Sunday" Home Group • Sun., Oct. 29, after Worship. We'll meet in someone's home for lunch and a discussion of Tim Keller's book, *Forgive* (chapters 2-4).

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).

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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.