



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • OCTOBER 22, 2023



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 106:1-2

Praise Yahweh¹!

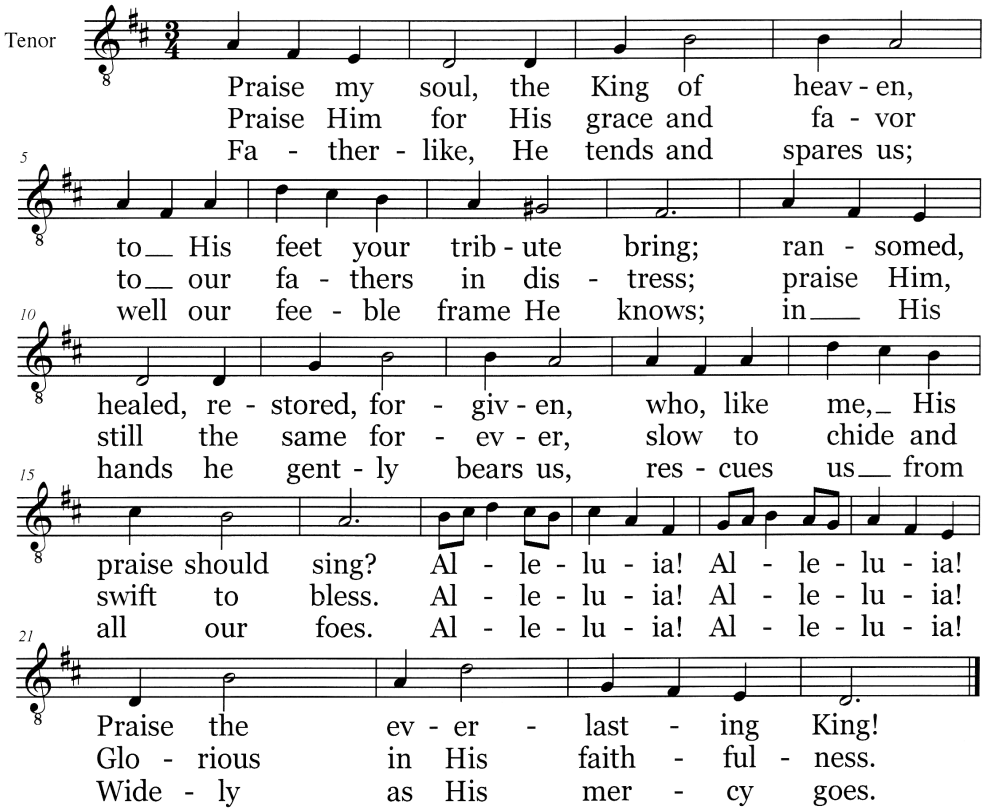
Oh give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Who can utter the mighty deeds of Yahweh,
or declare all his praise?

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 • Romans 7:18-19

I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of his holy name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.

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 • Isaiah 19:21-25

Yahweh will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know Yahweh in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to Yahweh and perform them. ²² And Yahweh will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to Yahweh, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them.

²³ In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

²⁴ In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, ²⁵ whom Yahweh of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

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, you rule over the nations of the earth in justice and mercy.

Give wisdom to our President and representatives in Congress. Bring peace between the nations of the world. We plead for your mercy on our nation.

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life.

Protect and defend Ascension Church and our sister congregations in and around Portland. Spread your gospel in this place. We ask for protection and prosperity for our city.

Jesus, you are full of compassion.

Relieve the suffering of the poor and oppressed in our city. Bring healing and joy to those who are ill or facing imminent death, and to those who care for them.

Our Father, you have set us here to cultivate and develop your creation.

Please give us delight and diligence in our callings. Provide for those seeking work. Make us a blessing to our city through our work.

And teach us to pray as you taught your 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.

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?*

He Giveth More Grace

Text: Annie Johnson Flint • Music: Hubert Mitchell

© 1941; renewed 1969 by Lillenas Publishing

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line with chords. The lyrics are arranged in two verses. The first verse begins with '1. He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater; He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.' The second verse begins with '2. When we have exhausted our store of endurance, When our strength has failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, Our multiplied trials, His multiplied peace. His love has no limit; His grace has no measure; His pow'r has no boundary known unto men. For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.'

Chords are indicated above the vocal line and below the piano line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

1. He giv - eth more grace when the bur - dens grow great - er; He send - eth more
2. When we have ex - haust - ed our store of en - dur - ance, When our strength has
strength when the la - bors in - crease. To add - ed af - flic - tion He add - eth His mer - cy; To
failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoard - ed re - sourc - es, Our
mul - ti - plied tri - als, His mul - ti - plied peace. His love has no lim - it; His grace has no
Fath - er's full giv - ing is on - ly be - gun.
meas - ure; His pow'r has no boun - da - ry known un - to men. For out of His in - fi - nite
rich - es in Je - sus, He giv - eth, and giv - eth, and giv - eth a - gain.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 19:27 – 20:16

19:27 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.”

20:1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

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

“The point of the story is plain. Length of service and long hours of toil in the heat of the day constitute no claim on God and no reason why he should not be generous to those who have done less. All human merit shrivels before his burning, self-giving love.” (Michael Green)



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.”

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

Text: Horatius Bonar • Music: *Kingsfold* • Public Domain



I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come ___
I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I ___



un - to me ___ and rest; Lay ___ down O wear - y one lay down your ___
hold, I free - ly give The ___ liv - ing wa - ter; thirs - ty one, stoop -
am this dark ___ world's Light; Look ___ unto Me your morn shall rise, and and ___



soul u - pon ___ my breast." I ___ came to Je - sus as I was ___
down, and drink, ___ and live." I ___ came to Je - sus, and I drank of
all your days ___ be bright." I ___ looked to Je - sus, and I found in



wear - y worn ___ and sad I ___ found in Him my rest - ing place and ___
that life - giv - ing stream; My ___ thirst was quenched my soul re - vived and ___
Him my Star, ___ my Sun; and ___ in that light of life I'll walk till ___



He has made ___ me glad.
now I live ___ in Him.
travel - ing days ___ are done.

God Of My Life

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800)

Music: Benj Pocta, Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy

©2007 Red Mountain Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God Of My Life'. It consists of eight staves of music, each with a vocal line and lyrics underneath. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: 'God of my life to Thee I call; Friend of the friend-less and the faint, That were a grief I could not bear, Af - flict - ed at Thy feet I fall; where should I lodge my deep com - plaint? didst Thou not hear and an - swer prayer; When the great wa - ter floods pre - - vail, Where but with Thee whose o - pen door, But a prayer hear - ing, an - swer - ing God, Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail. In - vites the help - less and the poor? sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load. Poor though I am, des - pised, for - got, Yet God, my God, for - gets me not; And he is safe, and must suc - ceed, for whom, the Lord is sure to plead.'

God of my life to Thee I call;
Friend of the friend-less and the faint,
That were a grief I could not bear,
Af - flict - ed at Thy feet I fall;
where should I lodge my deep com - plaint?
didst Thou not hear and an - swer prayer;
When the great wa - ter floods pre - - vail,
Where but with Thee whose o - pen door,
But a prayer hear - ing, an - swer - ing God,
Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail.
In - vites the help - less and the poor?
sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load.
Poor though I am, des - pised, for -
got, Yet God, my God, for - gets me not;
And he is safe, and must suc - ceed, for whom, the
Lord is sure to plead.

BENEDICTION • Deuteronomy 31:8

It is Yahweh who goes before you.
He will be with you;
he will not leave you or forsake you.
Do not fear or be dismayed.

~

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 • 6:30pm to 8pm Wednesdays. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us and to invite their friends. 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.