

PUBLIC WORSHIP • FEBRUARY 18, 2024



CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 42:10a

Sing to Yahweh a new song, his praise from the end of the earth.

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 • 1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Trinity, your love is eternal.

You are love.

There is none like you.

We are not like you.

We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, or strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We sin and fall short of your glory.

In the holiness of your love, forgive us.

Cleanse us, glorify us, fill us with your love.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 John 4:15

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

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 • Exodus 22:21-27; 23:4-9

"You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. ²² You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. ²³ If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, ²⁴ and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.

- ²⁵ "If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. ²⁶ If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, ²⁷ for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate...
- ^{23:4} "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him. ⁵ If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.
- ⁶ "You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit. ⁷ Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked. ⁸ And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.
- ⁹ "You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt."

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.

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Text: Edward Mote • Music: William Bradbury • Public Domain



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
- 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un-
- 3 His oath, his co- ve nant, his blood, sup port me in the
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



right eous-ness: I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and stor-my gale, my whelm ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, he him be found: dressed in his right eous - ness a - lone, fault -



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name. an-chor holds with - in the veil. then is all my hope and stay. less to stand be - fore the throne.

On Christ, the so - lid



Rock, I stand: all o - ther ground is



sin-king sand; all o - ther ground is sin-king sand.

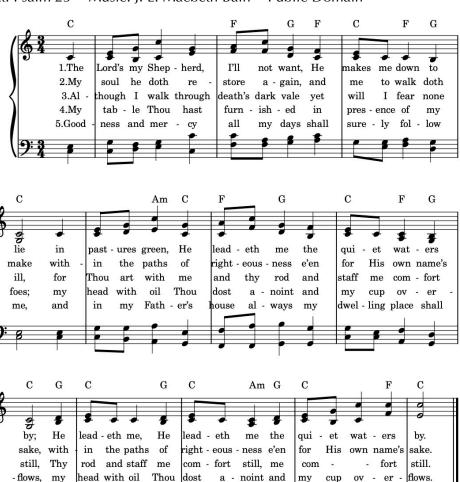
The Lord's My Shepherd

be;

and

with my Fath - er

Text: Psalm 23 • Music: J. L. Macbeth Bain • Public Domain



er - more my

ev -

dwel - ling place shall

be.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 Timothy 3

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. ¹⁶ Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*

SERMON • "Deacons" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

"It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church." (The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America, 9-2)



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 60

How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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].)

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Text: Frank Houghton • Music: French Carol Melody • Public Domain



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 • 1 Thessalonians 3:12

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

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

Newcomers' Lunch? • If you're new to Ascension... welcome! We're glad you're here! On occasion we host a Sunday lunch for newcomers. It's an opportunity to meet the Elders, ask questions, and generally spend some time getting to know each other. If that sounds interesting to you, please let Eric know if lunch on March 3 might work for you! (We can work the schedule to accommodate any who are interested.)

Officer Nominations • Throughout the month of February, members of Ascension are welcome to submit officer nominations to the Elders.

Midweek Studies

- 8:15am Tue. men's study at Longbottom Coffee: the Book of Judges Contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com)
- 1:30pm Wed. women's study: the Book of Ruth Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com)
- 6:30am Thu. men's study at the Starbucks on Walker & 158th: *Habits of the Household* (Earley) Contact: Joe Pope (pope.joe@gmail.com)
- 7pm Thu. women's study of Jesus through the Eyes of Women (McLaughlin) Contact: Holly McGarry (hollykliewer8@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).

Men's Retreat • Feb. 23-25 on the Sandy River. The cost is \$90. Contact: Rob Stevenson.

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).

Email Newsletter • Visit **ascensionpc.org/newsletter** to subscribe to weekly announcements.

PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (pcanet.org)
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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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(Drop this contact card in the offe	ering, or hand it to the Pastor.)
Name(s)	[] 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.
Email / Phone	[] Please use this info for the photo directory.