



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter
5 May 2024

He embraces all things that are lovely: He seals up the sum of all loveliness. Things that shine as single stars with a particular glory, all meet in Christ as a glorious constellation. Cast your eyes among all created beings, survey the universe: you will observe strength in one, beauty in a second, faithfulness in a third, wisdom in a fourth; but you shall find none excelling in them all as Christ does. Bread has one quality, water another, raiment another, medicine another; but none has them all in itself as Christ does. He is bread to the hungry, water to the thirsty, a garment to the naked, healing to the wounded; and whatever a soul can desire is found in Him. —John Flavel

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Sung Response—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah! Vs. 1

Christ is ris - en! Hal-le - lu - jah! Ris-en our vic - tor-ious Head!

Sing His prais - es! Hal-le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore Him, as His light once more ap - pears,

Bow-ing down in joy be - fore Him, ris-ing up from grief and tears,

Sing His prais - es! Hal-le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

CCLI #2844402 Text: James S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: BEACH SPRING (FOUNT OF GLORY),
attr. B. F. White, 1844, R.W. Thompson, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2010.

Call to Worship—Hebrews 1:8-9a, 10-11

Pastor: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

All: You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

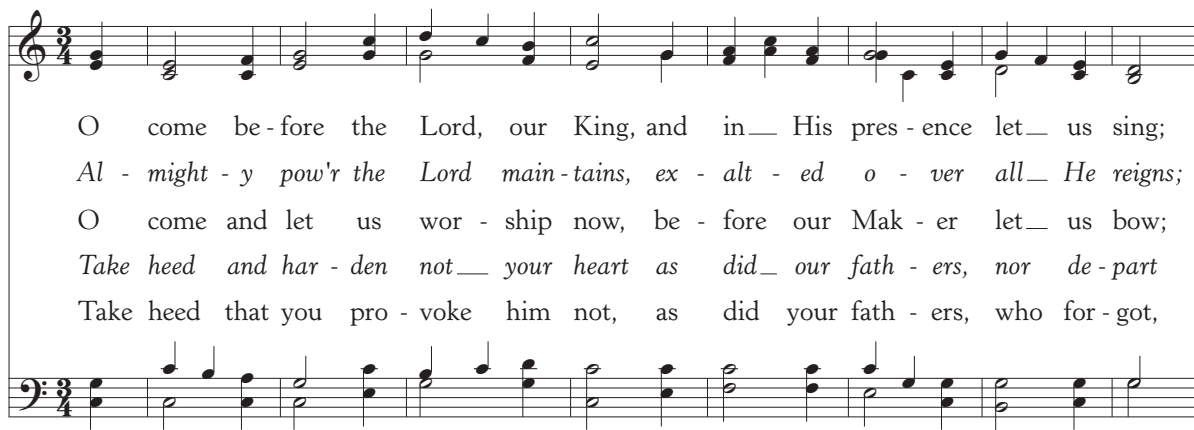
Reader 1: You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

Reader 2: They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe You will roll them up.

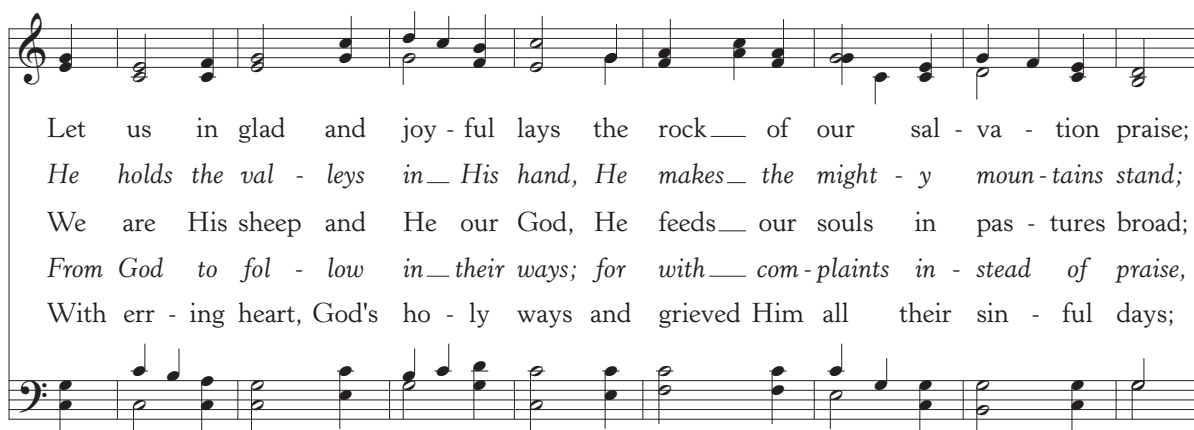
All: Like a garment they will be changed.

Pastor: But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.

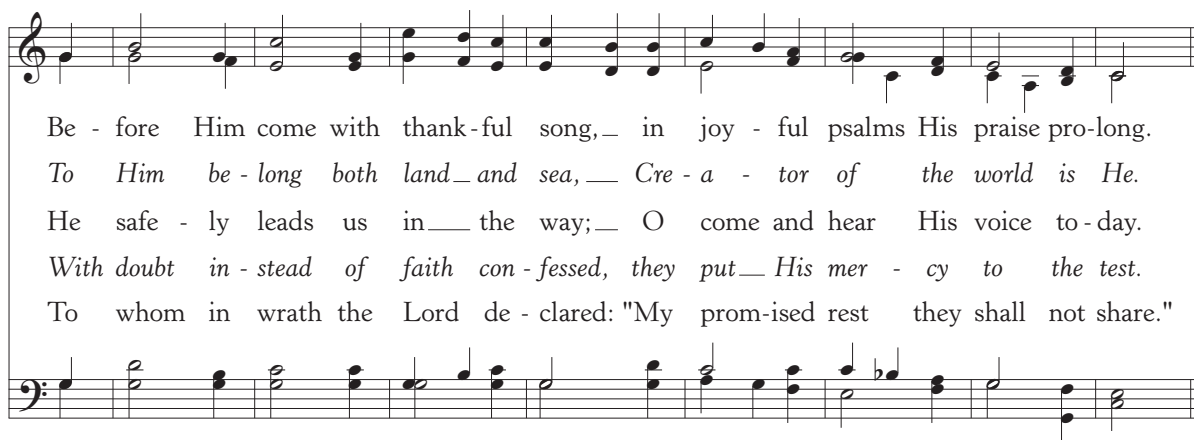
Congregational Psalm—O Come Before The Lord, Our King (Psalm 95)



O come be - fore the Lord, our King, and in — His pres - ence let — us sing;
Al - might - y pow'r the Lord main - tains, ex - alt - ed o - ver all — He reigns;
O come and let us wor - ship now, be - fore our Mak - er let — us bow;
Take heed and har - den not — your heart as did — our fath - ers, nor de - part
Take heed that you pro - voke him not, as did your fath - ers, who for - got,



Let us in glad and joy - ful lays the rock — of our sal - va - tion praise;
He holds the val - leys in — His hand, He makes — the might - y moun - tains stand;
We are His sheep and He our God, He feeds — our souls in pas - tures broad;
From God to fol - low in — their ways; for with — com - plaints in - stead of praise,
With err - ing heart, God's ho - ly ways and grieved Him all their sin - ful days;



Be - fore Him come with thank - ful song, — in joy - ful psalms His praise pro - long.
To Him be - long both land — and sea, — Cre - a - tor of the world is He.
He safe - ly leads us in — the way; — O come and hear His voice to - day.
With doubt in - stead of faith con - fessed, they put — His mer - cy to the test.
To whom in wrath the Lord de - clared: "My prom - ised rest they shall not share."

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Congregational Psalm—The Lord Has Spoken To My Lord (Psalm 110)



The Lord has spo - ken to my Lord, "at My right hand take Your seat,
Your peo - ple in Your day of—pow'r free-ly—give them-selves to You;
And when the day of wrath has come; then the Lord at Your right hand



Un - til I make Your en - e - mies in - to a foot-stool for Your feet."
Your youth, all clothed in ho - li - ness, ap - pear each day like morn - ing's dew.
Will crush great kings and na - tions judge, with fall - en bod - ies fill the land.



The Lord from Zi - on will ex - tend the migh - ty scep - ter in Your hand:
The Lord has sworn a sol - emn oath from which He'll ne - ver be re - leased;
Just - ly con - demned be-neath His rule will heads of ma - ny nations die;



"Rule in the midst of en - e - mies, sub-due each un - der Your com - mand."
"In th'or - der of Mel - chi - ze - dek for - ev - er more You are a priest."
But from the brook He'll stop to drink, and His own head He'll lift up high.

Text: Psalm 110:1-7; *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications.
Music: JERUSALEM, Hubert Parry, 1916, arr. Brian E. Coombs and Andrew K. Schep, 2004.

Scripture Reading—Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the Word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—At The Name Of Jesus



At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
In your hearts en - throne Him; there let Him sub - due
Broth - ers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



Ev - 'ry tongue con - fess Him King of glo - ry now;
From the lips of sin - ners un - to whom He came,
All that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
With His Fath - er's glo - ry, with His ang - el train;



'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call Him Lord,
Faith - ful - ly He bore it spot - less to the last,
Crown Him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
For all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on His brow,



Who from the beg - in - ning was the might - y Word.
Brought it back vic - to - rious when from death He passed.
Let His will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
And our hearts conf - ess Him King of glo - ry now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1870; Music: KING'S WESTON, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925.

Baptism of Evelyn Anderson, daughter of Joseph and Millie Anderson

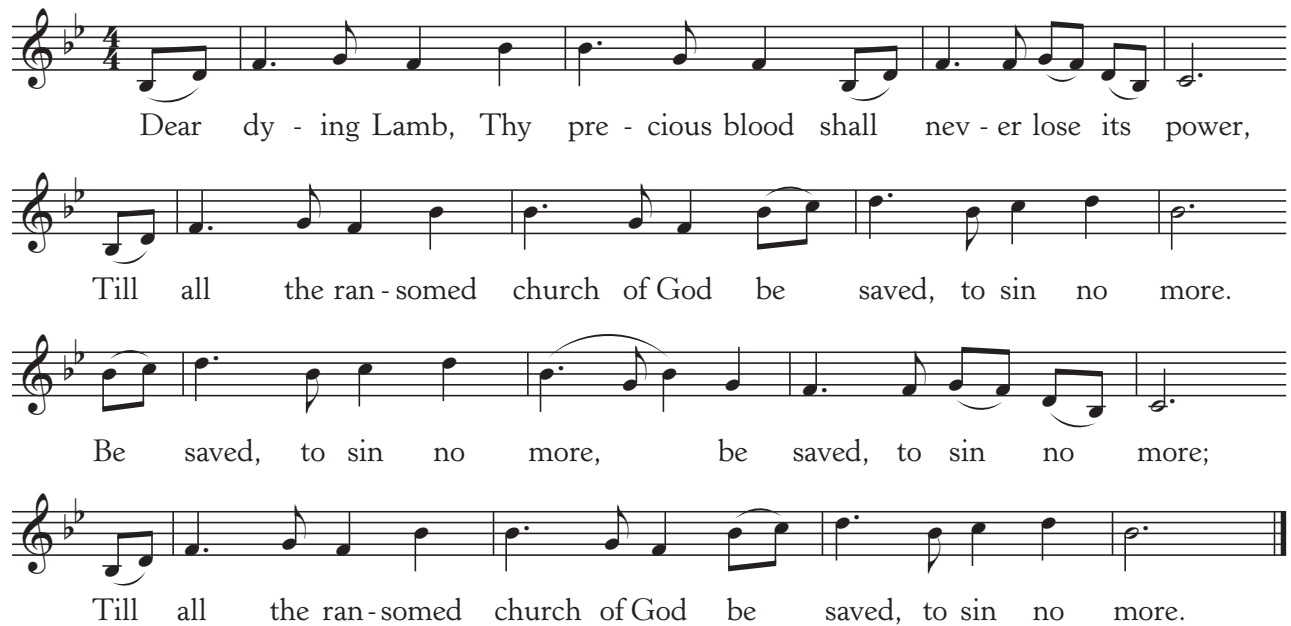
Reading of the Word—Hebrews 13:7-17

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to Him outside the camp and bear the reproach He endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood, Vs. 4



Dear dy - ing Lamb, Thy pre - cious blood shall nev - er lose its power,
Till all the ran - somed church of God be saved, to sin no more.
Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ran - somed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

Text: William Cowper, 1771; Music: FOUNTAIN, Lowell Mason, 1830.

Sermon—Yesterday, Today, and Forever

—Pastor Emeritus, George Grant

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Hebrews 3:3-4; 7-8; 4:12

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing our sins. For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

All: **How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?**

Pastor: Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness."

Assurance of Pardon—Hebrews 4:14, 16; John 3:16-17

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

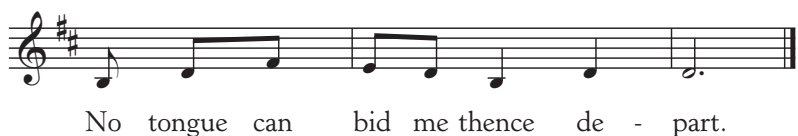
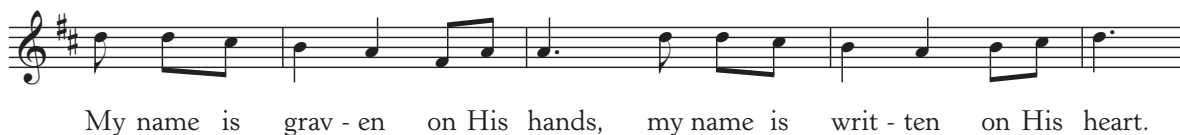
Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Pastor: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response—Before The Throne Of God Above, Vs. 1



HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCHARISTO*

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God: The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

WOMEN

MEN Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, -
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, Ho
high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est. A-men.
san-na in the high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est. A-men.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—Of The Father's Love Begotten



Of the Fath - er's love be - got - ten. Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed! When the Vir - gin full of grace,
He as - sumed this mor - tal bo - dy, Frail and fee - ble, doomed to die,
This is He whom once the si - byls With u - ni - ted voice fore - told,
Christ, to Thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,



He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He.
By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior of our race,
That the race from dust cre - a - ted Might not per - ish ut - ter - ly,
Whom the Scrip - tures of the pro - phets Pro - mised in their faith - ful word.
Hymn and chant with high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be:



Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,
And the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, First re - vealed his sac - red face,
Which the dread - ful Law had sen - tenced In the depths of hell to lie,
Let the world u - nite to praise Him, Long de - sired, fore - seen of old,
Hon - or, glor - y, and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



Ev - er more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 4th century, tr. John Mason Neale, 1851 and H. W. Baker, 1859;
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, 13th century.

Congregational Hymn—Christ Our Hope In Life And Death



What is our hope in life and death? Christ a - lone, Christ a - lone. What is our on - ly con - fi - dence?
What truth can calm the trou - bled soul? Christ a - lone, Christ a - lone. Where is His grace and good - ness known?
Un - to the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!" And what re - ward will hea - ven bring?



That our souls to Him be - long. Who holds our days with - in His hand? Who comes, a - part from His com - mand?
In our great Re - deem - er's blood. Who holds our faith when fears a - rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial?
Ev - er - last - ing life with Him. There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be de - stroyed,



And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand. _____
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh un - to the shore, the rock of Christ? _____
And we will feast in end - less joy, when Christ is ours for - ev - er more. _____

Chorus



O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e - ter - nal;



O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Now and ev - er we con - fess: Christ our hope in life and death.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

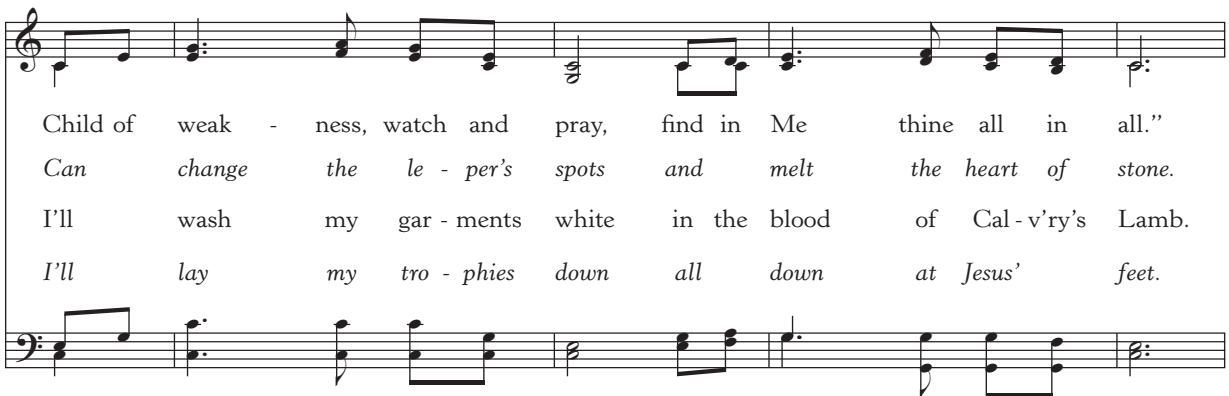
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

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.*

Congregational Hymn—Jesus Paid It All



I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small;
Lord, now in - deed I find Thy power and Thine a - lone,
For noth - ing good have I where - by Thy grace to claim,
And when be - fore the throne I stand in Him com - plete,

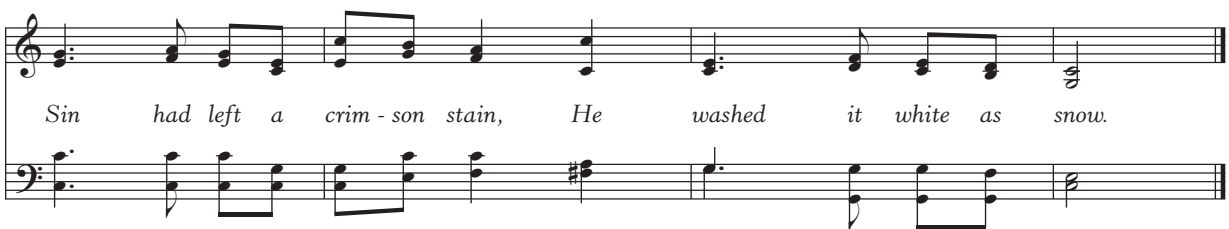


Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."
Can change the le - per's spots and melt the heart of stone.
I'll wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
I'll lay my tro - phies down all down at Jesus' feet.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, all to Him I owe;



Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Music: ALL TO CHRIST, John T. Grape, 1865.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Hebrews 6:19-20

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today, Vs. 3

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Lives a - gain our glor - ious King, - Al - - - le - lu - ia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - - le - lu - ia! Once He died our souls to save, Al - - - le - lu - ia! Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - - le - lu - ia!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

As we come to the close of our study of Hebrews—a series that has taken nearly nine months—this morning’s service recapitulates many of the themes this remarkable book has surveyed. You’ll notice that every reading this morning (not just the sermon text) is taken from Hebrews, and we’ll sing many of the hymns that were featured during this series. The early part of the book quoted extensively from Psalms 95 and 110, both of which we’ll sing today—even the less familiar later verses of Psalm 95 that remind us to “harden not your heart[s].” Christ’s high priestly role is discussed in Hebrews 4, 5, and 8, as it is in the hymn, *Before The Throne Of God*. Hebrews 13 reminds us that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever,” just as *There Is A Fountain* and *Of The Father’s Love Begotten* remind us that He is “Alpha and Omega” and that His blood shall never lose its power. We sang *At The Name Of Jesus* and *Jesus Paid It All* on the first Sunday of the series last August, and we’ll sing them again today. These hymns, along with *Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*, capture vividly the centrality and supremacy of Jesus—in the book of Hebrews as in all things. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Remember, Imitate, Go, Offer, Sacrifice, Do Good, Share, Obey, Submit, Advantage
Keystone Verse: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)



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Elders Emeritus

Steve Nelson John Scherrer

Deacons

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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.