

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time 29 September 2024 This is God's purpose in those miracles, which He worketh by the apostles, to set forth the glory of His Christ.

—John Calvin

Miracles...provide us with a glimpse of the world to come. They are signs of the re-created order of things. To those who experience disability in this world, there is the promise that, in the world to come, they will enjoy the liberty and blessing of a new body. In our resurrection bodies, every last trace of what sin has done to us will be gone forever.

—Derek Thomas

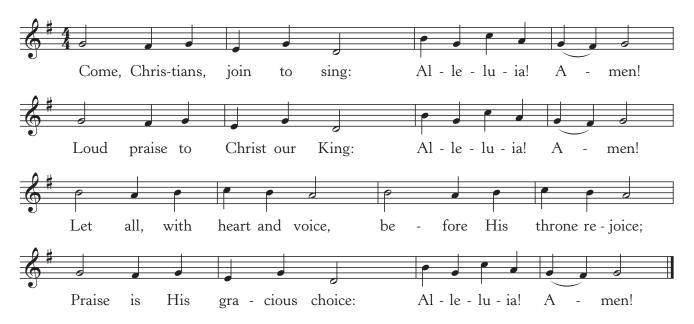
## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—Acts 1:8

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

## Sung Response—Come, Christians, Join To Sing, Vs. 1



Text: Christian Bateman, 1843; Music: MADRID, Traditional Spanish melody, arr. David Evans, 1927.

# Call to Worship—Isaiah 35:1-4

Pastor: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus.

All: It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

Reader 1: The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

Reader 2: They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Pastor: Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

All: Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not!"

Pastor: Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come

and save you.

# Congregational Hymn—All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name



Text: Edward Perronet, 1779, John Rippon, 1787; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

#### 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—Alleluia! How Blest The Man (Psalm 112)



Text: Psalm 112:1-4, 6-8, 10, The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church, 1887, alt. 2018; Music: POTTSVILLE, Henry C. Haffner, 2018.

#### Scripture Reading—Isaiah 35:4-10

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# Congregational Hymn—There's A Wideness In God's Mercy



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1854; Music: HOLY MANNA, William Moore, 1825.

#### Reading of the Word—Acts 3:1-16

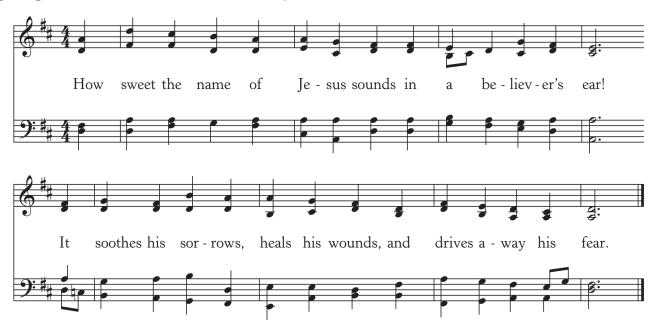
Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup> Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup> And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

<sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds, Vs. 1



Text: John Newton, 1779; Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinangle, 1836.

Sermon—The Holy Spirit Formula

—Assistant Pastor, Mike Fennema

## 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—Psalm 51:1, 10-12

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my

transgressions.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

All: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

#### Assurance of Pardon—Luke 4:18-19; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Pastor: He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with

the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

## Sung Response—My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness, Vs. 2



#### 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:

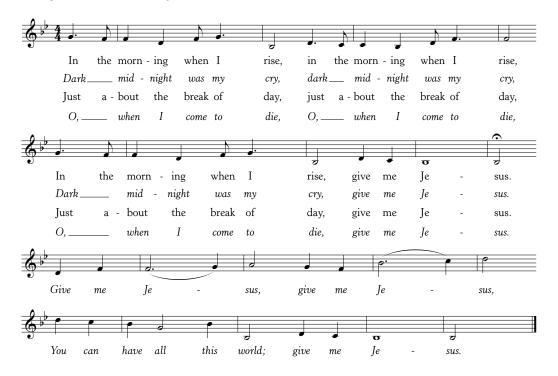


Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; Music: CLOVERCROFT SANCTUS, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

#### 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—Give Me Jesus



Text and Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual.

## Congregational Hymn—And Let This Feeble Body Fail



# 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—O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: AZMON, Carl G. Glaser, 1828, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

# 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—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen*.

## Sung Response—Gloria Patri



Text: Lesser Doxology, 2<sup>nd</sup> century; Music: Nathan George, 2015, harm. Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

#### Announcements

#### Worship Notes:

This morning's service presents a theme of healing and restoration, both physical and spiritual. We sing All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name, declaring along with Peter that "faith in His name—has made [us] strong" (Acts 3:16). Scripture readings throughout the service declare God's promises to "strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees" (Isaiah 35:3), to make the "the ears of the deaf unstopped" and "the lame man leap like a deer" (Isaiah 35:5-6), and to give "sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18; Isaiah 61:1). Hymns like There's A Wideness In God's Mercy and How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds remind us that "there is healing in His blood" and that His name "heals our wounds," while My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness expresses our gratitude towards Jesus for walking beside us, strengthening our weaknesses, and sustaining us through every trial. Because of His finished work of redemption, we can even sing hymns like Give Me Jesus and And Let This Feeble Body Fail, confident that we can "suffer through our weary years" and "smile at toil or pain." Are you weak, sick, or troubled? Let's put our hope in the name of Jesus, who alone can provide "life and health and peace." —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Lame, Prayer, Look, Name, Jesus, Rise, Walk, Praising, Wonder, Killed, Life, Faith
 Keystone Verse: And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

 (Acts 3:16)



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