



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Easter Season
April 26th, 2026

Quotes for reflection:

Vice is monster of so frightful mien
As, to be hated, needs but to be seen;
Yet, seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

—Alexander Pope

The steadfast love of the triune God is embodied in Jesus Christ, the incarnate and eternal Son. In Him the deceitfulness of sin is exposed, and the assurance and delight of the godly is fulfilled.

—Christopher Ash

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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

Gospel Invitation—Psalm 103:8

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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—from Psalm 34:3, 5–8; Psalm 67:4–5

Pastor: O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together!

All: Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

Reader 1: The poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

Reader 2: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

Pastor: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

All: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

Congregational Hymn—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,
 To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - i - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; Music: ST. DENIO, Traditional Welsh melody.

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. In His Word, God particularly calls us to sing psalms: while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to use the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Congregational Psalm—Bless The Lord O My Soul (Psalm 104)



Bless the Lord, O my soul! For my God is great in - deed.
He lays down the cor - ner - stone of His throne up - on the wat - ers.
Vast, O Lord, are Your works! All Your creat - ures fill the earth.
May the glor - y of the Lord ev - er en - dure as He re - joic - es!



Glo - ry! Splen - dor is His robe; light for cov'r - ing as a tent;
On the clouds His char-i - ot rides. He, on wings of wind, in - spires;
Wis - dom, You have made them all; teem - ing life both great and small;
I will sing as He gives breath; praise my God while life af - fords.



Stretch - ing out the heav - ens.
Mak - ing saints a flam - ing fire.
Formed to fill Your might - y call.
O my soul, now bless the Lord!

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 104, Nathan George, 2001;
Music: Nathan George, 2011.

Scripture Reading—Romans 3:9–20

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;
no one understands;
no one seeks for God.
All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good, not even one.”
“Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”
“The venom of asps is under their lips.”
“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”
“Their feet are swift to shed blood;
in their paths are ruin and misery,
and the way of peace they have not known.”
“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

The musical score is written for a congregational hymn in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a corresponding musical line. The first system includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the melody. The second system also includes a repeat sign. The third system includes a repeat sign. The fourth system includes a repeat sign. The lyrics are as follows:

Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee!
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore Him!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!
Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee;
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore Him!

All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw near,
Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y will do,
Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a - gain;

Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
If with His love He be - friend thee.
Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1680, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665.

Sermon Text—Psalm 36:1–12

To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the Lord.

- 1 Transgression speaks to the wicked
deep in his heart;
there is no fear of God
before his eyes.
- 2 For he flatters himself in his own eyes
that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.
- 3 The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit;
he has ceased to act wisely and do good.
- 4 He plots trouble while on his bed;
he sets himself in a way that is not good;
he does not reject evil.
- 5 Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
Your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast You save, O Lord.
- 7 How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
- 8 They feast on the abundance of Your house,
and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.
- 9 For with You is the fountain of life;
in Your light do we see light.
- 10 Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You,
and Your righteousness to the upright of heart!
- 11 Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me,
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.
- 12 There the evildoers lie fallen;
they are thrust down, unable to rise.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Light Of The Anxious Heart, Vs. 1

Light of the anx - ious heart, Je - sus, Thou dost ap - pear,

To bid the gloom of guilt de-part, and shed Thy sweet-ness here.

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting. The top part is in treble clef and the bottom part is in bass clef. Both parts are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th c. tr. by J. H. Newman, 1836;
Music: SELMA, Robert Archibald Smith, 1825.

Sermon—*Deceit or Delight*

—Assistant Pastor, Brittain Brewer

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

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Though You give freely from the spring of the water of life to satisfy those who thirst, we forsake You. (Revelation 21:6)

All: We have committed two evils: we have forsaken You, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for ourselves, broken cisterns that hold no water. (Jeremiah 2:13)

Pastor: Transgression speaks deep in our hearts, and there is no fear of God before our eyes. (Psalm 36:1)

All: We flatter and deceive ourselves, and we cease to act wisely and do good. (Psalm 36:2–3)

Pastor: We desire the things of this world—the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life—rather than You, our God, in whose light we see light. (1 John 2:16; Psalm 36:9)

All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. (Psalm 51:1)

Assurance of Pardon—1 Peter 2:9–10; Luke 18:27

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

All: What is impossible with man is possible with God.

Sung Response—Come Down, O Love Divine, Vs. 2

O let it free - ly burn, til earth - ly pas - sions turn
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
And let Thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'O let it free - ly burn, til earth - ly pas - sions turn', 'To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;', 'And let Thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,', and 'And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.' The music ends with a double bar line.

Text: Bianco da Siena, 15th century, tr. Richard Littledale, 1867;
Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

God feeds the faith of His people by giving them a meal. As God fellowships with them in faith, His people pledge their obedience to God and their love for one another.

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

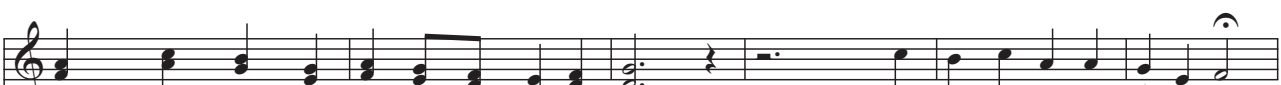


Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,

MEN



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might.



Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



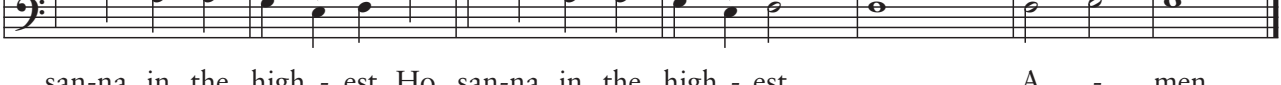
high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



high - est, Ho 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—O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



O Love that will not let___ me___ go, I rest my wea - ry soul in Thee.
O Light that fol - lows all___ my___ way, I yield my flick'-ring torch to Thee.
O Joy that seek - est me___ through pain, I can - not close my heart to Thee.
O Cross that lift - est up___ my___ head, I dare not ask to fly from thee.



I give Thee back the life___ I___ owe, that in Thine oce - an depths its flow
My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that in Thy sun - shine's blaze its day
I trace the rain - bow through the___ rain, and feel the pro - mise is not vain,
I lay in dust, life's glo - ry___ dead, and from the ground there blos - soms red,



May rich - er, ful - ler___ be.
May bright - er, fair - er___ be.
That morn shall tear - less be.
Life that shall end - less___ be.

CCLI #2844402 Text: George Matheson, 1882;
Music: Christopher Miner, 1997.

Congregational Hymn—My Jesus, I Love Thee

My Je - sus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
I love Thee, be - cause Thou hast first lov - ed me.
I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

For Thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign.
And pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;
And praise Thee as long as Thou lend - est me breath;
I'll ev - er a - dore Thee in heav - en so bright;

My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sa - vior art Thou;
I love Thee for wear - ing the thorns on Thy brow;
And say when the death - dew lies cold on my brow,
I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow,

If ev - er I loved Thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

Text: William R. Featherston, 1864; Music: GORDON, Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876.

GOD’S PEOPLE GRATEFULLY RESPOND WITH THEIR PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS, AND PRAISE

Praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship, moving our faith from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings. Offering boxes for both tithes and alms are located in the foyer.

Pastoral Prayer

Corporate Prayer—*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 Psalm—The Wicked Man Fears Not The Lord (Psalm 36)



The wick - ed man fears not the Lord, But trusts in his own way.
But Your a - bun - dant love ex - tends To heav - en, Lord most high.
Let not Your stead - fast love de - part, Nor let us fall to — pride,

Vs.1 & 2, then Chorus



In his in - i - qui - ty as - sured He — sins both night and day.
In just - ice You pre - serve the men And beasts who to You cry.
But help us be up - right of heart, And Your name glor - i - fy.

Chorus



Un - der the sha - dow of Your wings Is a ri - ver of de - light.



In You, — we true a - bun - dance find, And in Your light, see light.

Text: based on Psalm 36, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018;
Music: FLAT CREEK, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

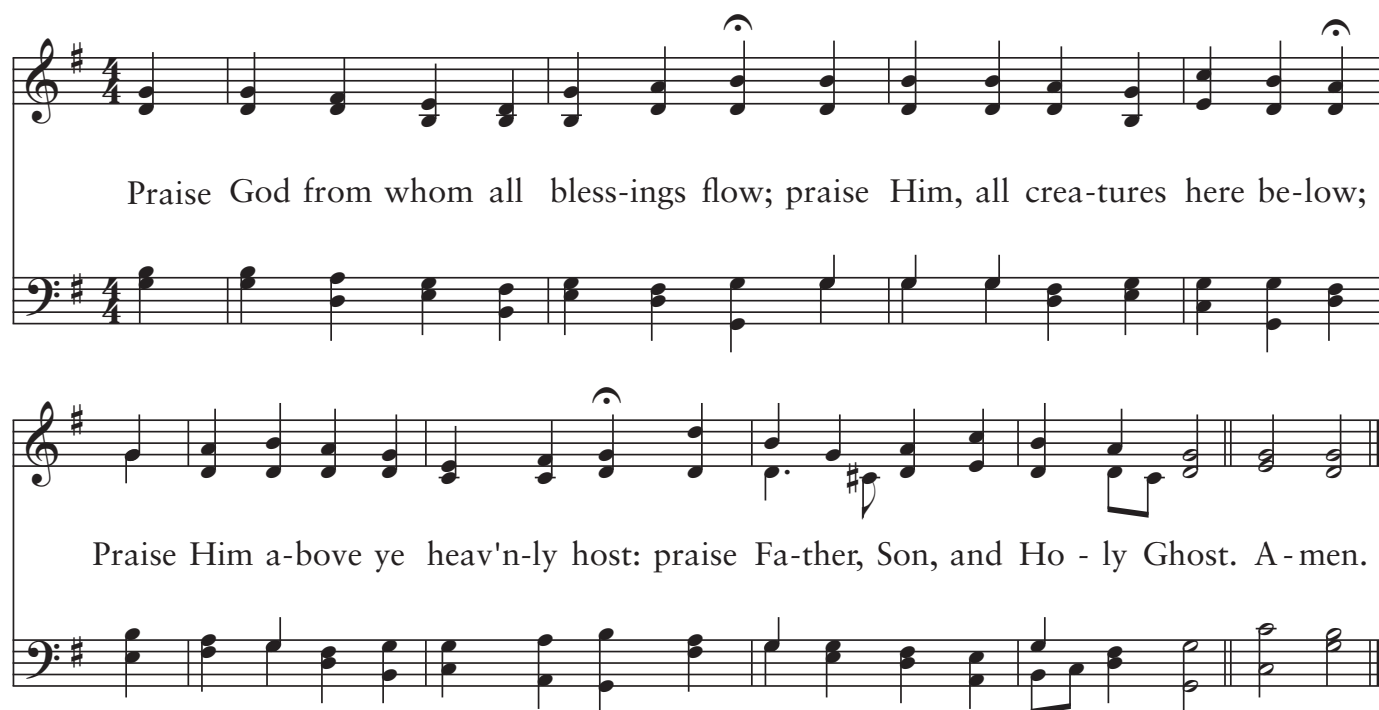
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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—2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low;

Praise Him a-bove ye heav'n-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. —1 John 1:5

I taught music for several years at a small Christian college here in town (where I first met some incredible students named James Crampton and Brittain Brewer). The students there had a short prayer service each morning before class, consisting primarily of responsive psalm texts either spoken or sung. One of my favorite readings used in these services focused on the second half of Psalm 36:9: “In Your light do we see light.” This beautiful image always struck me, but metrical settings of this psalm in most psalters and hymnals tend to elide that line or place it in a less prominent place. One Sunday morning in the fall of 2018, I mentioned to our then music intern, Elizabeth Dowdell, that she should try to write a poetic paraphrase that used verse 9 as a chorus. In the span of about 15 minutes, in between Sunday School and the start of the second service, she produced the text which eventually became *The Wicked Man Fears Not The Lord—Psalm 36*, which closes our service this morning. Paired as it is with joyful declarations that the Father is the “great Father of light” clothed with “light for covering as a tent,” comforting reminders that Jesus is the “light of the anxious heart” who “bids the gloom of guilt depart,” and heartfelt prayers that the Spirit’s light would “shine ever on [our] sight” to illumine our paths, I hope this psalm will draw our focus to the true source of all light.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Transgression, Wicked, Iniquity, Steadfast Love, Faithfulness, Righteousness, Judgments, Delights

Keystone Verses: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights. (Psalm 36:7–8)