



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time
15 September 2024

All living things—humans, animals, plants—decay and die, but Christ overcame death. No one else in history, not even the most famous and influential of men, has ever done that. Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. —Henry Morris

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—John 11:25

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

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

Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore His throne re - joice;

Praise is His gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 111:1-4

Pastor: We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

All: **Praise the Lord!**

Reader 1: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Reader 2: Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

All: **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.**

Pastor: The Lord is gracious and merciful.

Congregational Hymn—Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

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.

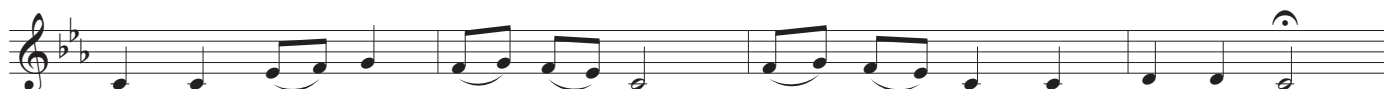
GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

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—Hear Me, All You People (Psalm 49)



Hear me, all— you peo - ple hear, folk of— all the earth, give ear;
When with wick - ed - ness— my foes shall sur - round me and op - pose,
If from death one would be— free and cor - rup - tion ne - ver see,



All of high and low de - gree, rich and poor, give heed to me
Should I then to fear give way when I— see the e - vil day?
Cost - ly is— life's ran - som price, far— be - yond all sac - ri - fice.



Truth with all my heart I— seek, and— my mouth shall wis - dom speak;
They that trust in trea - sured gold, though they boast of wealth un - told,
If men be not tru - ly— wise, they— are like the beast that dies,



Lis - ten how with mu - sic's strain I— make hid - den wis - dom plain.
None can bid— his bro - ther live; none to— God a ran - som give.
Death their shep - herd, they the sheep; He— with - in his fold will keep.



If men be not tru - ly— wise, they are— like the beast that dies,



But my Lord my soul shall save; God will raise me from the grave.

Text: Psalm 49:1-9, 12-14, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;
Music: ROSE HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Scripture Reading—1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the Word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, [and] that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands



Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for our of - fens - es — giv - en;
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death con - tend - ed;
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;



But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from Heav - en:
The vic - tor - y re - mained with life: the reign of death was — end - ed.
Christ is Him - self the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing God's prais - es thank - ful - ly
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns, an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;



With songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Death's sting is lost for - ev - er! Al - le - lu - ia!
The night of sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1524, tr. Richard Massie 1858; Music: CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN, Medieval melody,
arr. Johann Walther, 1524.

Reading of the Word—Acts 2:22-41

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning Him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷For You will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let Your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.’

²⁹“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.’” ³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today, Vs. 1

Christ, the Lord, is ris'n to - day, — al - - - le - lu - ia!

Sons of men and an - gels say, — al - - - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, al - - - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye — heav'ns, and earth, re - ply, — al - - - le - lu - ia!

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

Sermon—From Resurrection to Repentance

—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 Psalm 111:5-6, 10

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing our grievous sin and our need for the redemption promised in the Gospel of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. For the fear of You, O Lord, is the beginning of wisdom.

All: **But we have failed to fear You. Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: You remember Your covenant forever.

All: **But we have been covenant breakers. Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: You have shown Your people the power of Your works, in giving us the inheritance of the nations.

All: **But we have squandered our inheritance. Lord, have mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon—from Psalm 111:7-9; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

The works of the Lord are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!

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—Man Of Sorrows! What A Name, Vs. 3

Guilt-y, vile, and help-less we; spot-less Lamb of God was He;

“Full a - tone-ment!” can it be? Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines.

HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

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

MEN
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might Hea-ven and Earth are
Hea-ven and Earth are full of Your glo-ry, Ho-san-na in the high-est.
full of Your glo-ry, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hos-

Lord. Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na in the high-est.
san-na, Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na in the high-est.

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 Psalm—Preserve Me, Lord, In Time Of Need (Psalm 16)



Pre - serve me, Lord, in time of need; For re - fuge to Thy throne I flee,
When God is nigh, my faith is strong; His might - y arm will keep me sure:
Though in the dust I lay my head, Yet, gra - cious God, Thou wilt not leave
My flesh shall Thy first call o - bey, Shake off the dust, and rise on high;
There streams of end - less plea - sure flow; And full dis - cov - 'ries of Thy grace,



But have no mer - its there to plead: My good - ness can - not reach to_ Thee.
Be glad, my heart; re - joice, my tongue; My dy - ing flesh shall rest_ se - cure.
My soul for - ev - er with the dead, Nor lose Thy chil - dren to_ the grave.
Then shalt Thou lead the won - drous way Up to Thy throne a - bove the sky.
Which we but tas - ted here be - low, Spread heav'n - ly joys through all_ the place.

Text: Psalm 16, selected verses, paraphrased by Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2015;
Music: MONTE BELLA, Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

Congregational Hymn—Christ Our Hope In Life And Death



What is our hope in life and death? Christ a - lone, Christ a - lone.
What truth can calm the trou - bled soul? Christ a - lone, Christ a - lone.
Un - to the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"



What is our on - ly con - fi - dence? That our souls to Him be - long.
Where is His grace and good - ness known? In our great Re - deem - er's blood.
And what re - ward will hea - ven bring? Ev - er - last - ing life with Him.



Who holds our days with - in His hand? Who comes, a - part from His com - mand?
Who holds our faith when fears a - rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial?
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—I Know That My Redeemer Lives



I___ know that my re - deem - er lives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to bless me___ with His love; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to crush the fiends of hell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to plead my___ cause a - bove; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives and doth with - in me dwell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

Shout___ on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

The dead's a - live, and the lost is found, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1775; Music: ANTIOCH (SHOUT ON), F. C. Wood, *The Sacred Harp*, 1850;
arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2017.

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—Psalm 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! *Amen.*

Sung Response—Gloria Patri

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Glor - y be_ to the Fath - er, and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is_ now, and ev - er shall be, World_ with - out end. A - men. A - - - men." The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

After the past two weeks where we have seemingly observed Ascension and Pentecost for a second time this year, this Sunday we'll experience a second Easter! Peter's sermon in Acts 2 emphasizes the physical reality of Jesus' resurrection and His victory over death, as do many of the elements in this morning's service. We'll be reminded that Jesus called Himself "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25) and that He died, was buried, and rose from the grave (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). We'll sing psalms in which God promises to "raise [us] from the grave" (*Hear Me, All You People—Psalm 49*) and to keep our flesh secure (*Preserve Me, Lord, In Time Of Need—Psalm 16*), along with classic Easter hymns that celebrate Christ's resurrection (*Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*) and His defeat of the "reign of death" (*Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands*). We'll use words inspired by the Heidelberg Catechism (*Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*) to declare "Christ, He Lives!" and that sin and death will ultimately be destroyed. The service concludes with a message of comfort (*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*): because of Jesus' resurrection, we can rest assured that the dead will live again and that the lost will one day be found. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Attested, Foreknowledge, Raised, Resurrection, Exalted, Lord, Cut, Repent

Keystone Verse: He foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ. (Acts 2:31)



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