



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Ascension Sunday
May 17th, 2026

Quotes for reflection:

Repentance is a habit, power, principle, spring, root, and disposition; not a bare, single, and transient action. Repentance is not the work of an hour, or a day: but a constant frame, course, and bent of the soul.

—Zachary Crofton

It is the sole and singular prerogative of Jesus Christ exalted “to give repentance.” Repentance is not the effect of the law but a pure gospel-grace; preached by the gospel, promised in the covenant, sealed in baptism, produced by the Spirit, properly flowing from the blood of Christ; and so is every way supernatural.

—Zachary Crofton

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—Hosea 6:1–2

Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has struck us down, and He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live before Him.

Sung Response—A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs. 1



A hymn of glo-ry let us sing! New songs through-out the world shall ring,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ by a road be - fore un - trod,



A - scend-eth to the throne of God! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 8th century. tr. Benjamin Webb, 1854;
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 139:1–5, 14, 17–18

Pastor: We praise You, Lord, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; our soul knows it very well.

All: O Lord, You have searched us and known us! You know when we sit down and when we rise up; You discern our thoughts from afar.

Reader 1: You search out our paths and our lying down and are acquainted with all our ways.

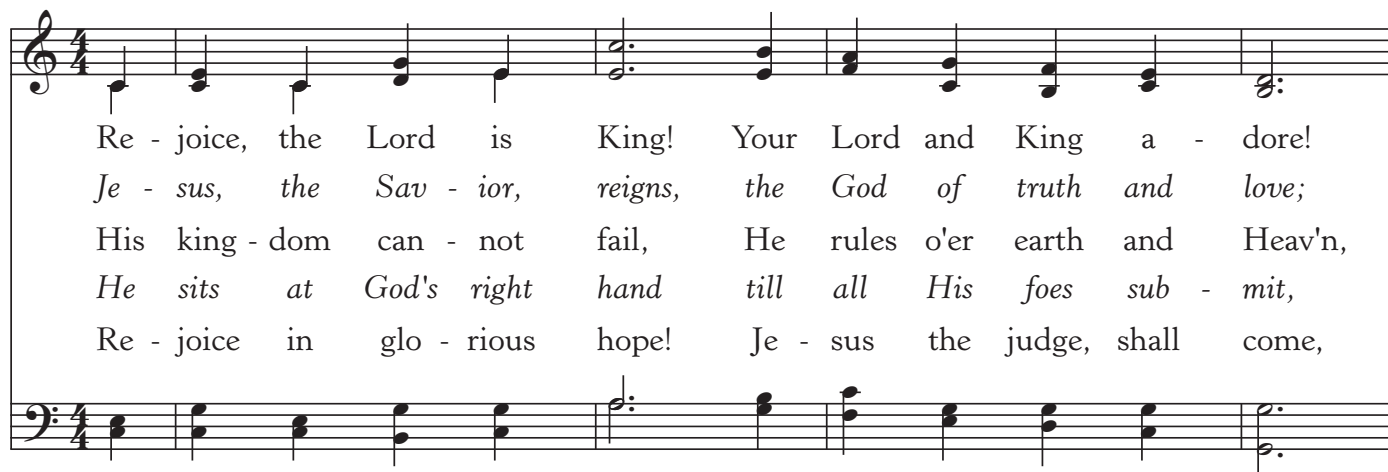
Reader 2: Even before a word is on our tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

Pastor: You hem us in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon us. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high; we cannot attain it.

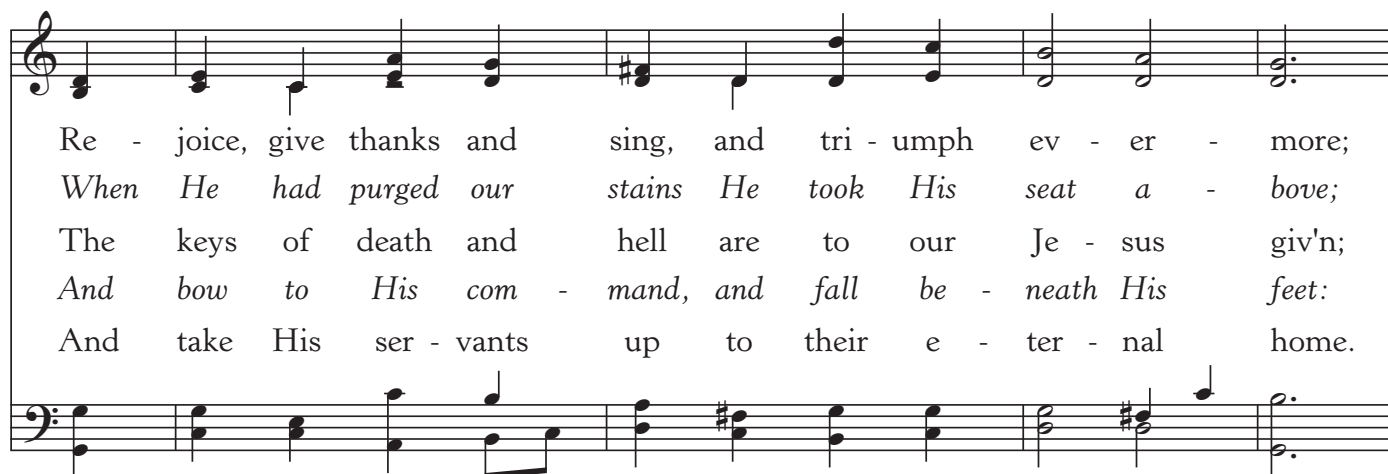
All: How precious are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Pastor: If we count them, they are more than the sand. We awake, and we are still with You.

Congregational Hymn—Rejoice, The Lord Is King!

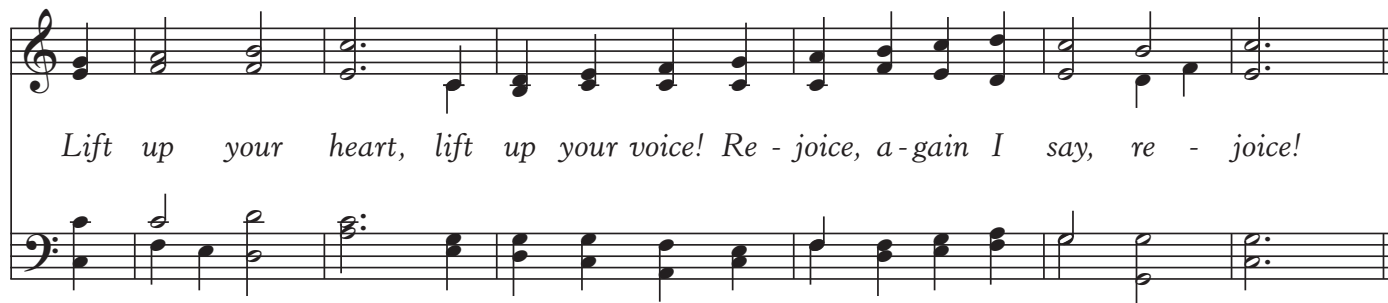


Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
Je - sus, the Sav - ior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
His king - dom can - not fail, He rules o'er earth and Heav'n,
He sits at God's right hand till all His foes sub - mit,
Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Je - sus the judge, shall come,



Re - joice, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more;
When He had purged our stains He took His seat a - bove;
The keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n;
And bow to His com - mand, and fall be - neath His feet:
And take His ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

Refrain



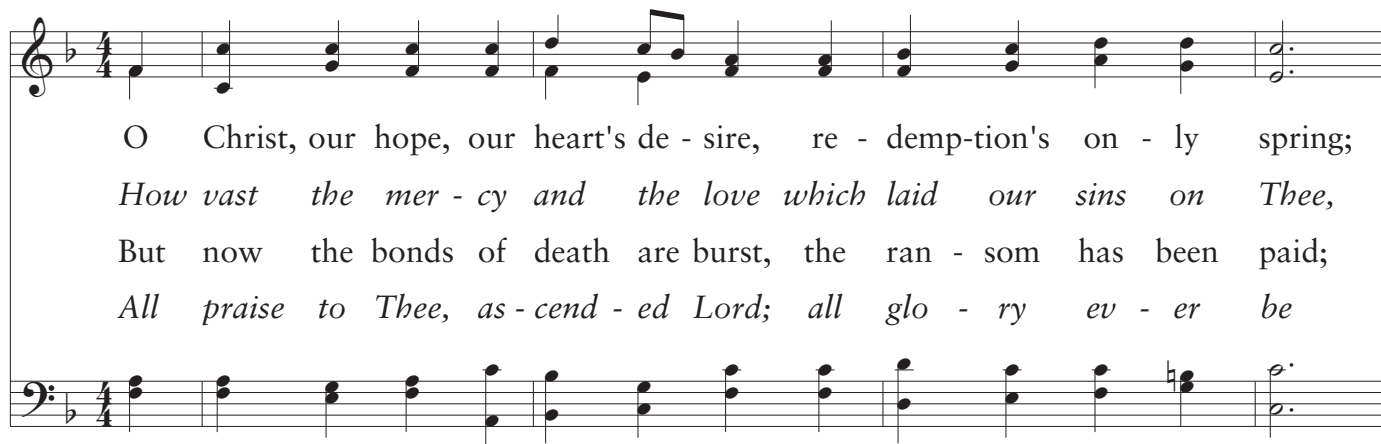
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1746; Music: DARWALL, John Darwall, 1770.

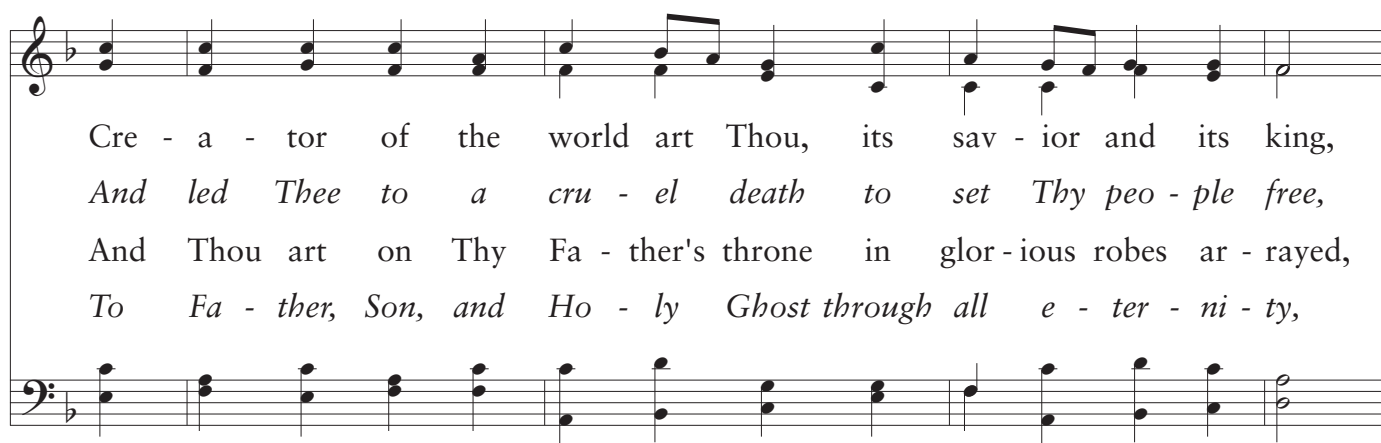
GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.

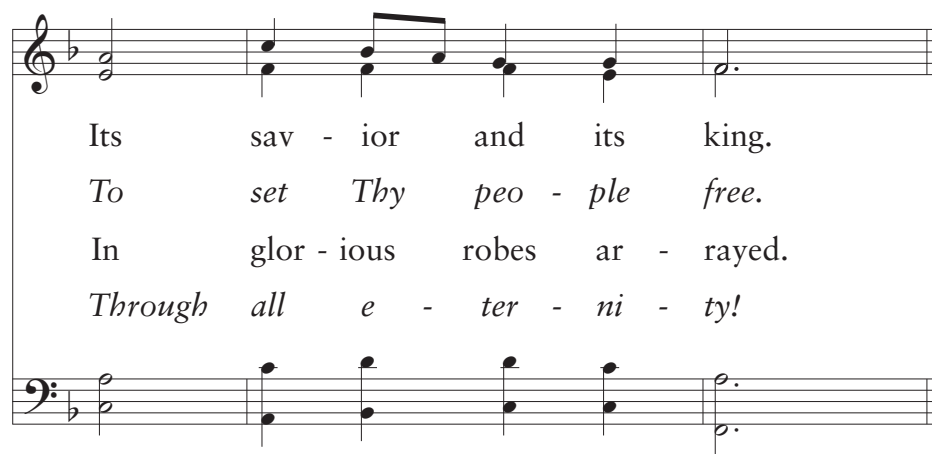
Congregational Hymn—O Christ, Our Hope



O Christ, our hope, our heart's de - sire, re - demp-tion's on - ly spring;
How vast the mer - cy and the love which laid our sins on Thee,
But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been paid;
All praise to Thee, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry ev - er be



Cre - a - tor of the world art Thou, its sav - ior and its king,
And led Thee to a cru - el death to set Thy peo - ple free,
And Thou art on Thy Fa - ther's throne in glor - ious robes ar - rayed,
To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost through all e - ter - ni - ty,



Its sav - ior and its king.
To set Thy peo - ple free.
In glor - ious robes ar - rayed.
Through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin Hymn, 8th century. tr. John Chandler, 1837;
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1560.

Scripture Reading—2 Corinthians 7:9–13

I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. Therefore we are comforted.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Come Ye Sinners, Poor And Needy



Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed, sick and sore;
Come, ye thirst - y, — come, and wel - come, God's free bount - y — glor - i - fy;
Come, ye wear - y, — heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined by the fall;
Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond-ly dream;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, — love and power.
True be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.
If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er — come at all.
All the fit - ness He re - quir - eth is to feel your need of Him.

Refrain



I will a-rise and go to Je - sus, He will em-brace me — in His arms;



In the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are — ten — thou-sand charms.

Text: Joseph Hart, 1759; Music: RESTORATION (ARISE),
William Walker's *The Southern Harmony*, 1835.

Sermon Text—Psalm 38:1–22

- O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger,
nor discipline me in Your wrath!
- ² For Your arrows have sunk into me,
and Your hand has come down on me.
- ³ There is no soundness in my flesh
because of Your indignation;
there is no health in my bones
because of my sin.
- ⁴ For my iniquities have gone over my head;
like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.
- ⁵ My wounds stink and fester
because of my foolishness,
- ⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all the day I go about mourning.
- ⁷ For my sides are filled with burning,
and there is no soundness in my flesh.
- ⁸ I am feeble and crushed;
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.
- ⁹ O Lord, all my longing is before You;
my sighing is not hidden from You.
- ¹⁰ My heart throbs; my strength fails me,
and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.
- ¹¹ My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague,
and my nearest kin stand far off.
- ¹² Those who seek my life lay their snares;
those who seek my hurt speak of ruin
and meditate treachery all day long.

- 13 But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear,
like a mute man who does not open his mouth.
- 14 I have become like a man who does not hear,
and in whose mouth are no rebukes.
- 15 But for You, O Lord, do I wait;
it is You, O Lord my God, who will answer.
- 16 For I said, “Only let them not rejoice over me,
who boast against me when my foot slips!”
- 17 For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever before me.
- 18 I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.
- 19 But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
- 20 Those who render me evil for good
accuse me because I follow after good.
- 21 Do not forsake me, O Lord!
O my God, be not far from me!
- 22 Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Before The Throne Of God Above, Vs. 2



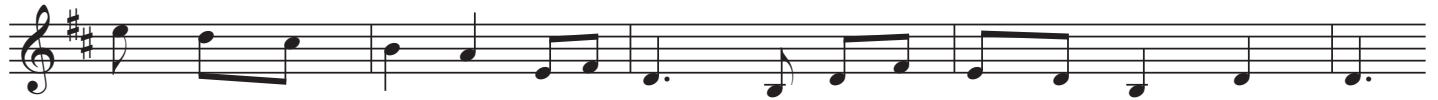
When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with - in,



Up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.



Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count - ed free.



For God the just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don me.



To look on Him and par - don me.

CCLI #2844402 ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship;
Text: Charitie Bancroft, 1863; Music: Vikki Cook, 1997.

Sermon—*When The Light Is Gone*

—Pastor, James Crampton

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 32:1–6

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

All: For when we kept silent, our bones wasted away through our groaning all day long.

Pastor: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon us; our strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

All: We acknowledge our sin to You, and we do not cover our iniquity.

Pastor: Let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found.

All: We say, “We will confess our transgressions to the Lord.”

Assurance of Pardon—Psalm 32:5–7; John 3:16–17

You forgave the iniquity of [our] sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for us; You preserve us from trouble; You surround us with shouts of deliverance.

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—Blest Is The Man (Psalm 32), Vs. 1



Blest is the man, for - ev - er blest, whose guilt is par-doned by his God;



Whose sins with sor - row are con-fessed, and cov-ered with his Sav-ior's blood.

© 2008 Greyfriars Press. Text: paraphrase of Psalm 32, Isaac Watts, 1719;
Music: DISTRESS, William Walker, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2008.

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.

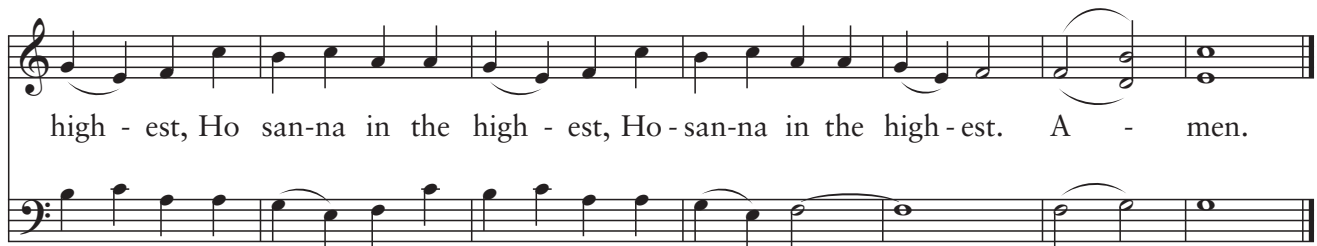
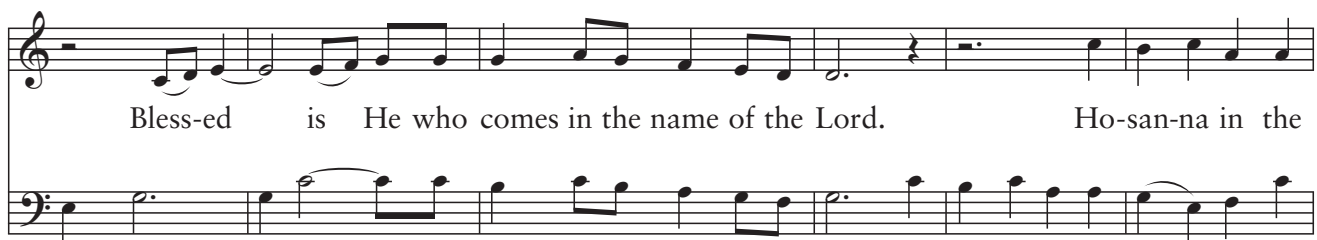
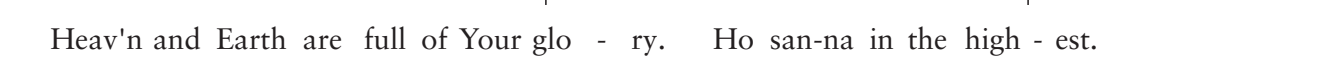
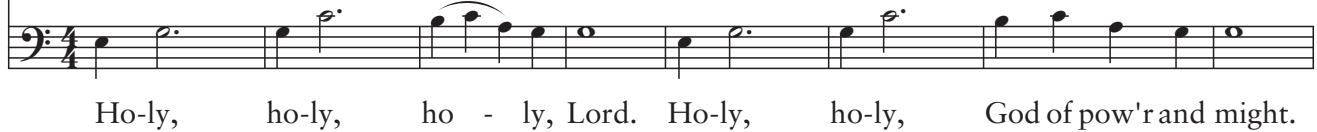
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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



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—There Is No Greater Portrait



There is no great - er por - trait of love and sac - ri - fice
He ran the race be - fore Him though it was filled with pain,
The Son of Man was lift - ed be - fore cre - a - tion's eyes;
O Sav - ior, let this sin - ner be ran - somed by the flood



Than Je - sus leav - ing glo - ry and lay - ing down His life.
And walked the road to glo - ry in a - go - ny and shame.
Was mocked and scorned by sol - diers, by kings and priests de - spised.
Of mer - cy and for - give - ness a - bun - dant in Your blood.



When I look on the suf - fer - ings my Sav - ior chose to bear,
Then for the joy be - fore Him, He chose to bear the cross,
But now the Son is ris - en, as - cend - ed to the skies.
O Lord, be my sal - va - tion, Your Ho - ly Spir - it send



It fills my heart with sor - row to think I put Him there.
Pur - sued His Fa - ther's plea - sure and count - ed all else loss.
By an - gels He is wor - shipped; by na - tions glor - i - fied.
To change my heart and cause me to love You to the end.

CCLI #2844402 ©2005 ReformedPraise.org
Text and Music: Eric Schumacher & David L. Ward, 2005.

Congregational Hymn—Nothing But The Blood



What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
For my par - don, this I see, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
Noth-ing can for sin a - tone: Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my hope and peace, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;



What can make me whole a - gain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
For my cleans - ing this my plea, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
Naught of good that I have done: Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my right - eous - ness, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Refrain



Oh! pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;—



No oth - er fount I know, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1876; Music: PLAINFIELD, Robert Lowry, 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—Rebuke Me Not In Anger, Lord (Psalm 38)



Re - buke me not in__ an - ger, Lord; Your ar - rows wound and bring de - spair.

My sin - ful fol - ly brought me low; bowed down, I groan in an - guished grief.

My pain is ev - er__ with me, Lord, for I have sinned a - gainst Your Laws.

Do not for - sake me, O my Lord; do not go far from me, my God.



My guilt is__ like a__ heav - y load that is too much for__ me to bear.

I have no strength, for__ I am crushed and spend my days with__ no re - lief.

My foes are migh - ty,__ those who hate and slan - der me with - out a cause.

Come quick - ly,__ help me__ now, I pray, O Lord, my Sav - ior__ and my God.

Text: Psalm 38:1–8, 17–22, 1985, ©1987 CRC Publications;
Music: BOURBON, Freeman Lewis, 1825.

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—1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. *Amen.*

Sung Response—A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs. 7

O ris-en Christ, a-scend-ed Lord, all praise to Thee let earth ac - cord,
A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! Who art, while end - less ag - es run,
With Fa - ther and with Spir - it one. A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 8th century. tr. Benjamin Webb, 1854;
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

This year, May 17 is Ascension Sunday, one of the “five evangelical feasts” which are celebrated in most Christian traditions (along with Christmas, Easter, Good Friday, and Pentecost). This day commemorates the events of Acts 1:6-11 when Jesus completed His earthly ministry by ascending into Heaven. Several of the hymns we sing this morning, like the 8th century Latin text *O Christ, Our Hope*, refer to Jesus as our “ascended Lord.” *A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing* and *Rejoice, The Lord Is King* both recount how He “ascendeth to the throne of God” and now “sits at God’s right hand.” The Ascension means we can truly sing “upward I look and see Him there who made and end of all my sin,” having confidence that we now have an advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1). And because our Lord “ascended to the skies,” as *There Is No Greater Portrait* puts it, to be worshipped by the angels and glorified by all the nations, we can trust that He will come again (Acts 1:11). Because He ascended, He will one day *descend* from Heaven, setting all things right and inaugurating the new Earth.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Discipline, Anger, Flesh, Sin, Plague, Wait, Confess, Answer, Salvation

Keystone Verses: O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger, nor discipline me in Your wrath! (Psalm 38:1)