

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

All Saints Sunday 3 November 2024

Sanctify, O God, the principle of all our doings, and let their effect be the turning of many to righteousness. Let the impellent power and motive be obedience to God rather than to men; yet, let not a feeling of proud resistance to man, or triumph over him, taint and vitiate this sacred influence. —Thomas Chalmers

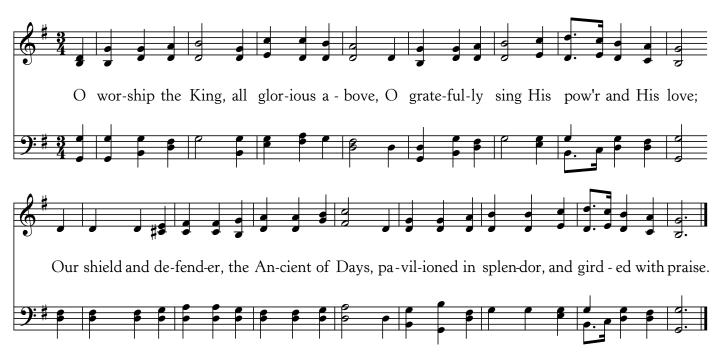
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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 6:35

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

Sung Response—O Worship The King, Vs. 1



Text: Robert Grant, 1833, based on Psalm 104; Music: LYONS, Joseph Martin Kraus, 1784.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 27:1, 11-14

Pastor: The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

Reader 1: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Reader 2: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

All: We believe that we shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

Pastor: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your hearts take courage; wait for the Lord!

Congregational Psalm—O Lord, Teach Me To Follow You (Psalm 27)



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—All Nations Clap Your Hands (Psalm 47)



Text: Psalm 47:1-9, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. 2018; Music: Third Avenue, Henry C. Haffner & Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018.

Scripture Reading—John 6:53-56; 61b-63; 66-69

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. Do you take offense at this? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."

After this many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God."

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



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

Baptism of Ellie Hanson, daughter of Eric and Kilee Hanson

Reading of the Word—Acts 5:12-32

¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

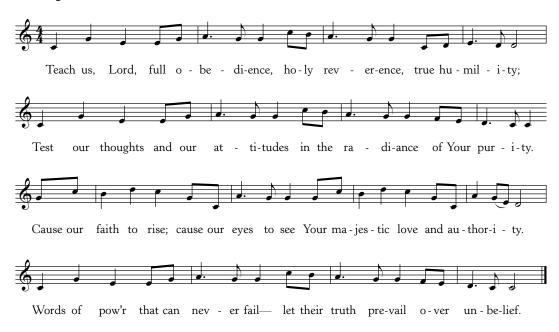
Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³ "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵ And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Speak, O Lord, Vs. 2



CCLI #2844402 ©2005 Thankyou Music; Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2005.

Sermon—Words Of This Life

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 James 3:13-17

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Who is wise and understanding among us? By our good conduct we should

show our works in the meekness of wisdom. The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle,

open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

All: But we have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in our hearts. If we boast we would be false to

the truth.

Pastor: This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

All: For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every vile practice.

Assurance of Pardon—John 3:14-17; Titus 2:11-14

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 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.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness

and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

All: And so we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus

Christ.

Sung Response—Not What My Hands Have Done, Vs. 3



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.
Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

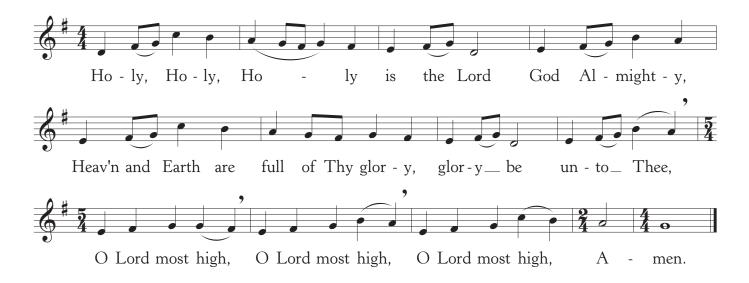
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, Revelation 4:8; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

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—The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



Text: Ancient Greek Hymn, tr. John Brownlie, 1907; Music: MORNING SONG, Elkanah Kelsay Dare, Kentucky Harmony, 1816.

Congregational Hymn—The Church's One Foundation



Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; Music: AURELIA, Samuel J. Wesley, 1864.

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—Crown Him With Many Crowns



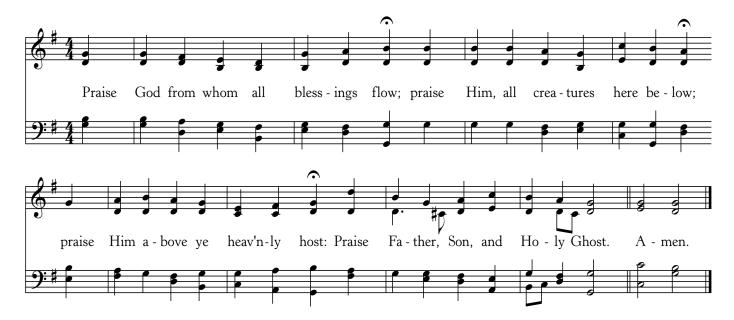
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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—based on 2 Timothy 1:2, 10

Our Savior Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen*.

Sung Response—Doxology



Text: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Unaccompanied singing in worship may be slightly unusual to us in our contemporary context—in this part of the country, that practice is mostly associated with the Churches of Christ and the Restoration movement. But you may not know that singing with voices alone was a widespread practice in the church for much of its history—from the chant melodies that filled medieval cathedrals to the Scottish protestants of the 16th and 17th century who brought their voices and their psalters to the new world. Even the term we use for this style, *a cappella*, is borrowed from an Italian phrase literally meaning "of the chapel," because this was the predominant practice for sacred music in Italian churches. As we prepare to move to our new building up on the hill, let's take a moment to thank the Lord for providing us with our current space. While it has many limitations and oddities, it has proved to be a particularly excellent space for congregational singing. Because of its hard surfaces and low ceilings, the room resonates beautifully when we join our voices together—so much so, that over the last 13 years, we've made it a practice to sing single verses of well-known hymns a cappella on occasion. This morning, we're going to do this over the whole service. Let's use our praises to give thanks to God for His provision, by filling this little space with the sounds it supports best—simple, unadorned voices.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Signs, Wonders, Sick, Heal, High Esteem, Jealousy, Life, Prison, Teach

Keystone Verse: Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life. (Acts 5:20)



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