

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter 28 April 2024

In Him I have an offering, an altar, a temple, a priest, a sun, a shield, a Savior, a Shepherd, a hiding place, a resting place, food, medicine, riches, honor, wisdom, righteousness, holiness, in short, everything. —John Newton

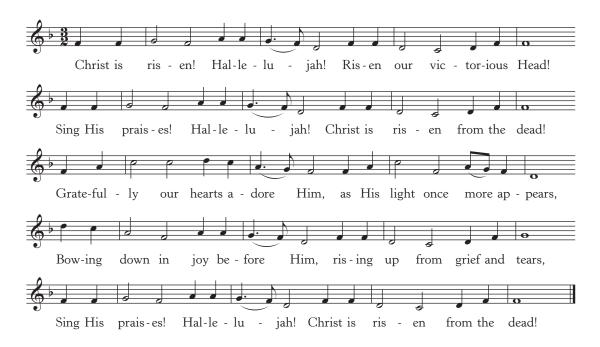
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—Matthew 28:20

Jesus said, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Sung Response—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah! Vs. 1



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—Psalm 121:1-5; 94:14-15

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Reader 1: He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

Reader 2: Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

All: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

Pastor: For the Lord will not forsake His people; He will not abandon His heritage; for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it.

Congregational Psalm—Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)

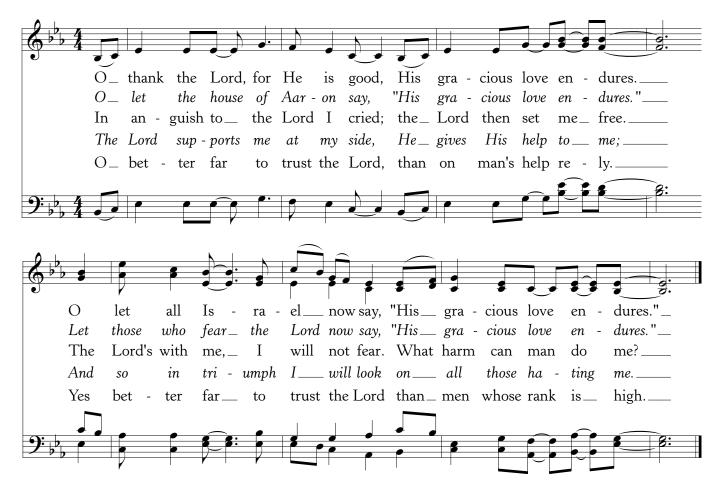


Text: Psalm 146:1-10, The Psalter, 1912; Music: RIPLEY, Gregorian Chant, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

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—O Thank The Lord, For He Is Good (Psalm 118)



Text: Psalm 118:1-9; *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, © 2009 Crown and Covenant Publications; Music: WHITE LAKE, Michael Tabon, 1999.

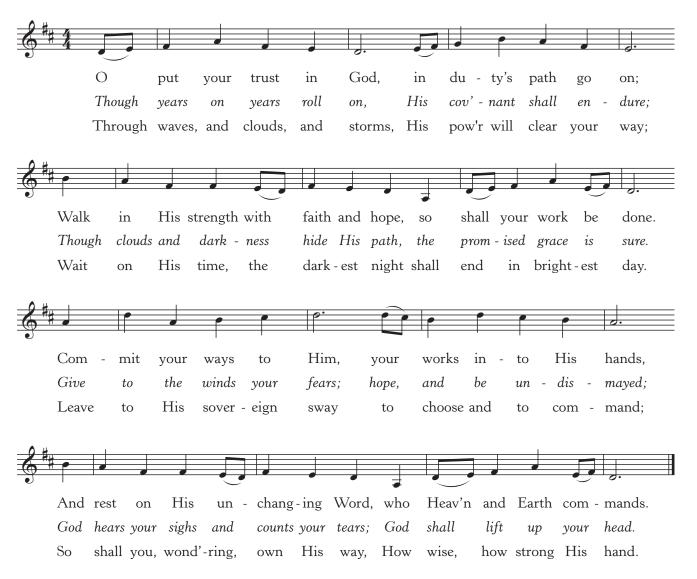
Scripture Reading—Joshua 1:1-7

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses My servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go."

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—O Put Your Trust In God



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1656, tr. John Wesley, 18th century; Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 13:1-6

"Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Abide With Me, Vs. 1



Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1847; Music: EVENTIDE (MONK), William Henry Monk, 1861.

Sermon—Exhortations to Gospel Obedience

—Associate Pastor, Brian Phillips

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 38:3-4, 18, 21-22

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We confess that there is no soundness in our flesh because of Your indignation; there is no health in our bones because of our sin.

All: For our iniquities have gone over our head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for us.

Pastor: We come before you to confess our iniquities; we are sorry for our sin.

All: Do not forsake us, O Lord! O our God, be not far from us. Make haste to help us. O Lord, our salvation! Forgive us for our sins through the work of Christ we pray.

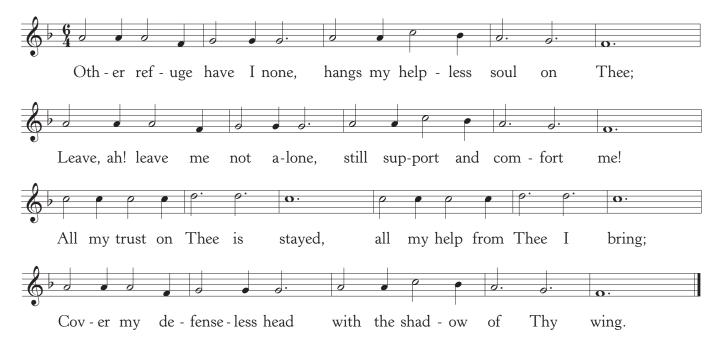
Assurance of Pardon—Titus 2:11-14

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, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

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—Jesus, Lover Of My Soul, Vs. 2



Text: Charles Wesley, 1740; Music: MARTYN, Simeon B. Marsh, 1834.

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:



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—Be Still, My Soul



Text: Katharina A. von Schlegel, 1752, tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1855; Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1899.

Congregational Psalm—My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Psalm 23)



Text: paraphrase of Psalm 23, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: RESIGNATION, The Southern Harmony, 1835.

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—A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Text: paraphrase of Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529, tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; Music: EIN'FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1529.

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—Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen*.

Sung Response—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today, Vs. 3



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

Worship Notes:

This morning's sermon text from Hebrews lists several practical exhortations on living the Christian life, concluding with a comforting quotation from the psalter: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear." Much of today's service focuses on this aspect of God as our helper. Throughout the morning, we'll be reminded that "[our] help comes from the Lord" (Psalm 121:2), that He "helps the fatherless and widow" (Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah—Psalm 146), that He supports us and "gives His help" (O Thank The Lord, For He Is Good—Psalm 118), and that His provision shall attend us throughout all our days (My Shepherd Will Supply My Need—Psalm 23). We cry out to the "help of the helpless" (Abide With Me), asking Him to "make haste to help us" (Psalm 38:22). We confess that we find "all [our] help" in Him (Jesus, Lover Of My Soul) and that our God is "Our Helper" who prevails even amid a flood of mortal ills (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God). As we struggle to live out the faith, as all of us do at times, let's take comfort in the promise that we serve a master who promises to help us accomplish the things He calls us to do. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Love, Continue, Hospitality, Strangers, Angels, Remember, Prison, Marriage, Honor,

Undefiled, Sexual Immoral, Content, Leave, Forsake, Confidently, Helper, Fear

Keystone Verse: Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I

will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:5-6)



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