



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Lent

29 March 2020

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God. —C.S. Lewis

Divine grace disdains to be assisted in the performance of that work which peculiarly belongs to itself, by the poor, imperfect performances of men. Attempts to complete what grace begins, betray our pride; grace is either absolutely free, or it is not at all. —Abraham Booth

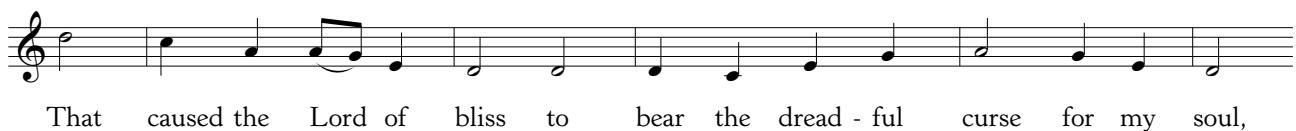
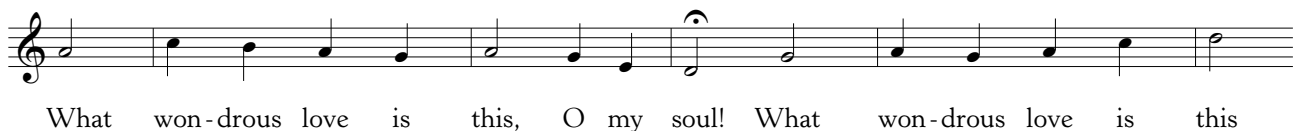
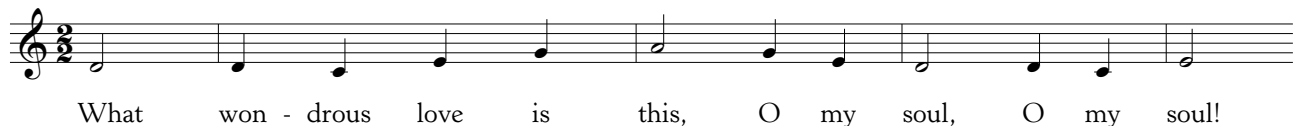
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—1 Corinthians 1:18

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Introit—What Wondrous Love Is This, Vs. 1



Text: American Folk Hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, *The Southern Harmony*, 1835.

Call to Worship—Psalm 3:3-8

Pastor: Salvation belongs to the Lord.

All: His blessing pours forth upon His people.

Reader 1: You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to You, and You answered me.

Reader 2: I lay down and slept; I woke again, for You, O Lord, sustained me. Therefore, I will not be afraid.

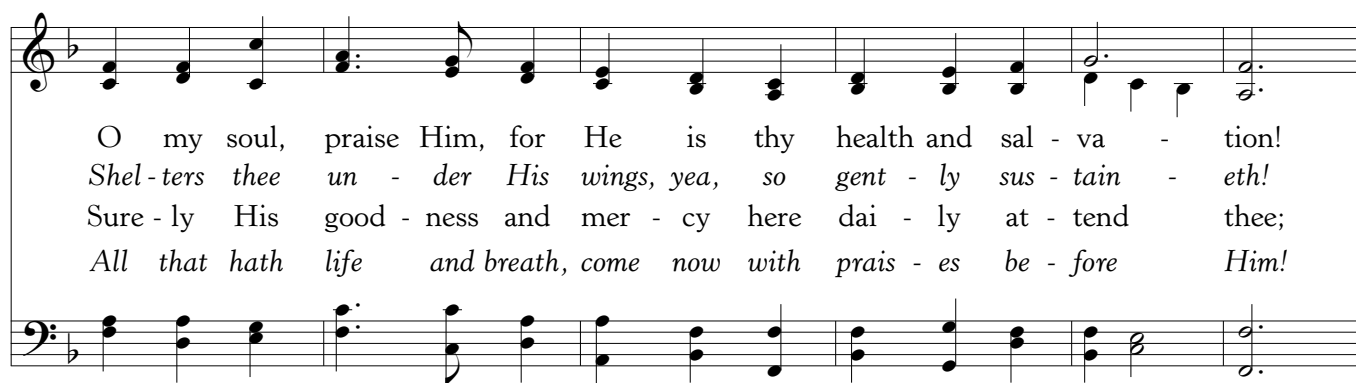
All: Arise, O Lord! Save us, O God!

Pastor: Salvation belongs to the Lord.

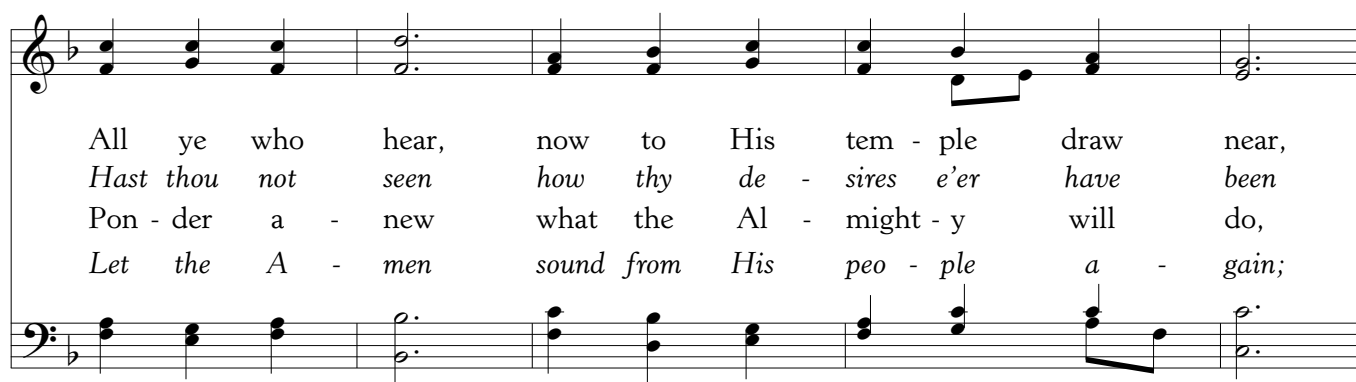
Hymn of Praise—Praise To The Lord, The Almighty



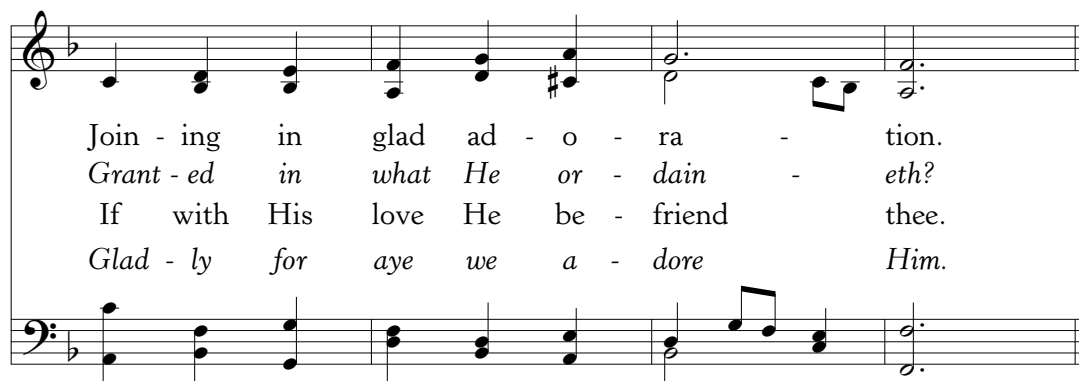
Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee!
 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore Him!



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.

Psalm of Praise—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: *The Psalter*, 1912, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;
Music: ROSE HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Scripture Reading—Psalm 135:1-3, 5-7, 13-14, 20

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord, who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God! Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to His name, for it is pleasant! For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. His holy will, His divine decrees shall never be frustrated. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from His storehouses. Your name, O Lord, endures forever, Your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages. For the Lord will vindicate His people and have compassion on His servants. O all you who fear the Lord, bless His holy Name! Praise Him all you who do His will. Blessed be the Lord from Zion! Praise the Lord!

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Thanksgiving—My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less



My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness:
When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un - chang - ing grace;
His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the whelm - ing flood;
When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in Him be found;



I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Dressed in His righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.



On Christ the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand,



All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1834; Music: SOLID ROCK,
William B. Bradbury, 1863.

Reading of the Word—Romans 8:1-4, 28-30, 38-39

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—All For Jesus, Vs. 5



Oh, what won - der! How a - ma - zing! Je - sus, glor - ious King of kings,



Deigns to call me His be - lov - ed, lets me rest be - neath His wings.

Text: May D. James, 1889; Music: WYCLIFF, John Stainer, 1887.

Sermon—*Our Blessed Assurance*

—Pastor, 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—from Ephesians 2:1-5

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We come confessing because we are sinners, every one of us, without exception.

All: We all were dead in the trespasses and sins in which we once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air.

Pastor: The spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience was once at work among us.

All: We all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Pastor: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

All: In Him we have forgiveness. By grace we have been saved.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Lamb Of God

UNISON



O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —



O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —



O Lamb of — God, that takes a - way the sins of the world,

Slightly faster

WOMEN



Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace,

MEN



Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

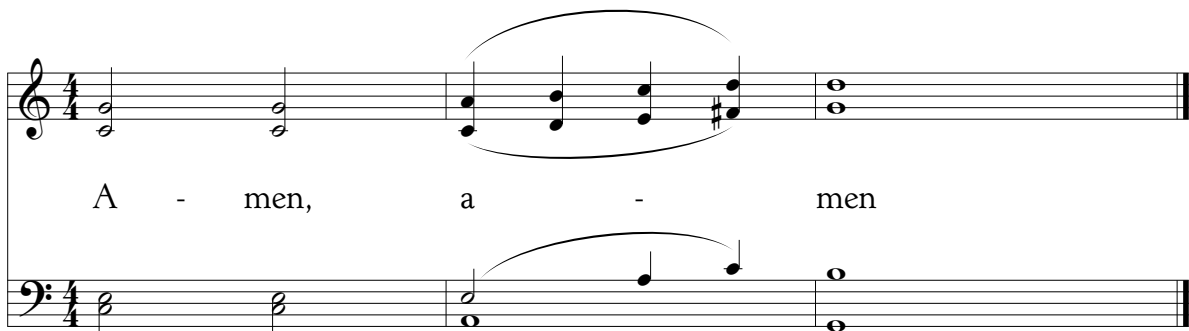
Assurance of Pardon—Titus 2:11-14; Mark 12:30

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for us all, 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: **Therefore, let us love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.**

Sung Response—Amen



Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th Century.

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:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN

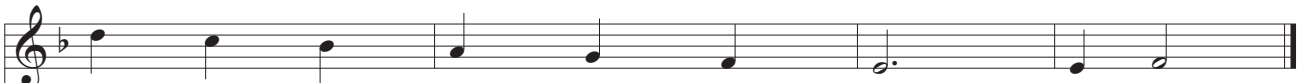


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

MEN



We praise You, we bless — You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

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.*

Hymn of Praise— Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted

Strick-en, smit - ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the tree!
Tell me, ye who hear Him groan - ing, Was there ev - er grief like His?
Ye who think of sin but light - ly, Nor sup - pose the e - vil great,
Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the re - fuge of the lost.

'Tis the Christ by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in - sult - ing his dis - tress:
Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its guilt may es - ti - mate.
Christ the Rock of our sal - va - tion, His the Name of which we boast.

'Tis the long ex - pect - ed Proph - et, Dav - id's Son, yet Dav - id's Lord;
Man - y hands were raised to wound Him, None would in - ter - pose to save;
Mark the Sac - ri - fice ap - point - ed! See Who bears the aw - ful load!
Lamb of God for sin - ners wound - ed! Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt!

by his Son God now has spok - en: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
But the deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that Jus - tice gave.
'Tis the Word, the Lord's A - noint - ed, Son of Man, and Son of God.
None shall ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1804; Music: O MEIN JESU, ICH MUSS STERBEN,
Geistliche Volkslieder, 1850.

*Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from You."*

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

*The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;
Their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.*

*The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
You hold my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
Indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.*

*I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
In the night also my heart instructs me.
I have set the Lord always before me;
Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

*Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
My flesh also dwells secure.
For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
Or let Your holy one see corruption.*

*You make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence there is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

—Psalm 16

Worship Notes:

In a time when so much in our world seems uncertain, what a glorious privilege it is to read and sing of the security we have in Christ Jesus! He has set us free (Romans 8:2), and nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:39). Therefore, this morning we can sing with confidence that the almighty Lord will shelter us under His wings and gently sustain us (*Praise To The Lord, The Almighty*). He is our solid rock (*My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*), who “deigns to call us His beloved” (*All For Jesus*). The service closes this morning with the great Lenten hymn, *Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted*. Based primarily on Isaiah 56, this sorrowful description of the cross concludes with a remarkably hopeful final verse, describing Christ as a “firm foundation” and a “refuge of the lost.” As we live in difficult circumstances, I pray that this hymn will remind us that “none shall ever be confounded who on Him their hope have built.” —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: In Christ, Foreknew, Predestined, Called, Justified, Glorified, Love
Keystone Verse: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)



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