

## SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Lent 28 February 2021

The secret formula of the saints: When I am in the cellar of affliction, I look for the Lord's choicest wines.
—Samuel Rutherford

He that rides to be crowned, will not think much of a rainy day. —John Trapp

God will not be behind-hand in love to us: for our drop, we shall receive an ocean. —Thomas Watson

#### 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—based on John 1:12

As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

## Introit—What Wondrous Love Is This, Vs. 1



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

## Call to Worship—based on Psalm 30:4-5, 11-12

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints.

All: Give thanks to His holy name.

Reader 1: His anger is but for a moment, but His favor is for a lifetime.

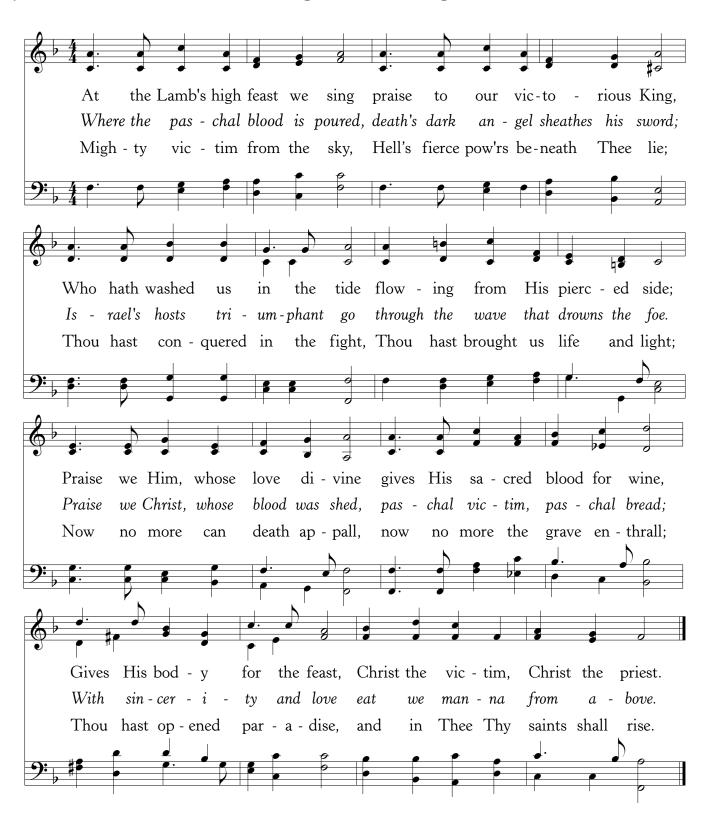
Reader 2: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

Leader: You have turned our mourning into dancing.

All: You have loosed our sackcloth and clothed us with gladness.

Leader: O Lord God, we will give thanks to You forever!

## Hymn of Praise—At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

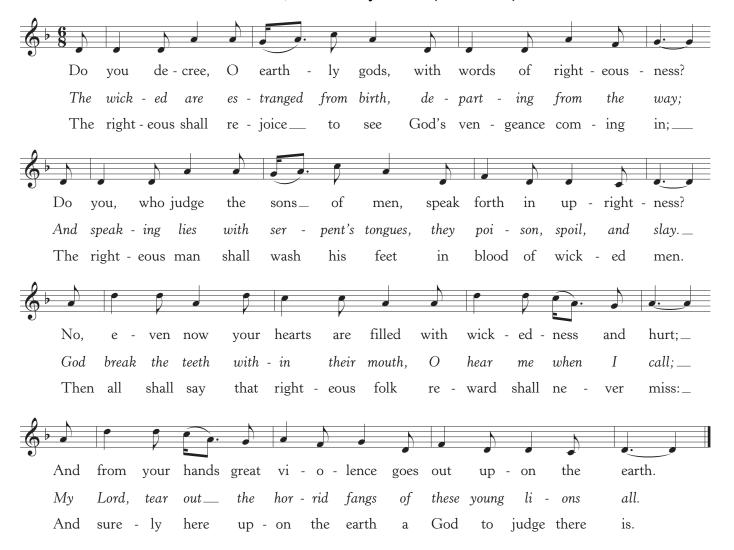


Text: Latin Hymn, 6<sup>th</sup> C., Tr. Robert Campbell, 1849; Music: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, George J. Elvery, 1859.

## 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—Do You Decree, O Earthly Gods (Psalm 58)



Text: The Psalter with Music, 1900, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2021; Music: GALLAWAY, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

## Scripture Reading—Ephesians 3:14-21

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of Praise—All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name



Text: Edward Perronet, 1779, John Rippon, 1787; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793.

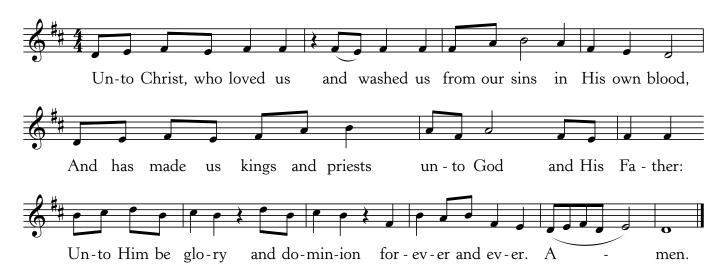
## Reading of the Word—1 Corinthians 6:1-8

When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us



CCLI #2844402 ©1936 Oxford University Press Text: Revelation 1:5-6; Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

#### Sermon—For All the Saints

-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—based on Luke 18:13, Psalm 51:1, Romans 8:15

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Like the tax collector we stand at a distance crying:

All: "God, have mercy on us sinners."

Pastor: Lord, like the Psalmist we cry:

All: "Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions."

Pastor: Lord, having received the Spirit of sonship, we cry:

All: "Abba, Father"

(Silent prayers of confession)

## Sung Response—Lamb Of God



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

#### Assurance of Pardon—based on Colossians 1:12-14; Matthew 28:19-20

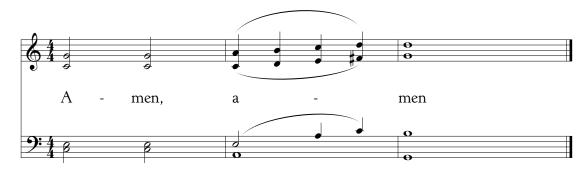
Give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Pastor: This is the promise of God, our great inheritance from Him.

#### All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

## All: Thanks be to God, our refuge, our strength, and our redeemer.



#### 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

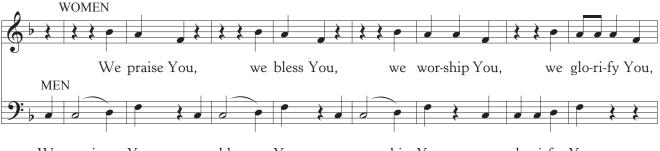
Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of

eternal praise:

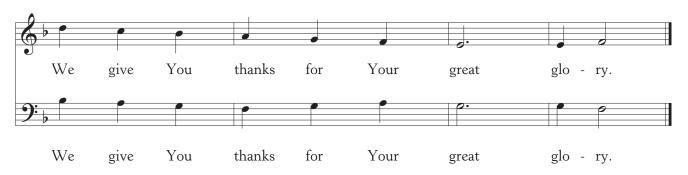
#### UNISON



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



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



Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, 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.

#### Hymn of Praise—For All The Saints



Text: William W. How, 1864; Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

#### Hymn of Praise—From Babel To Zion



# 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.

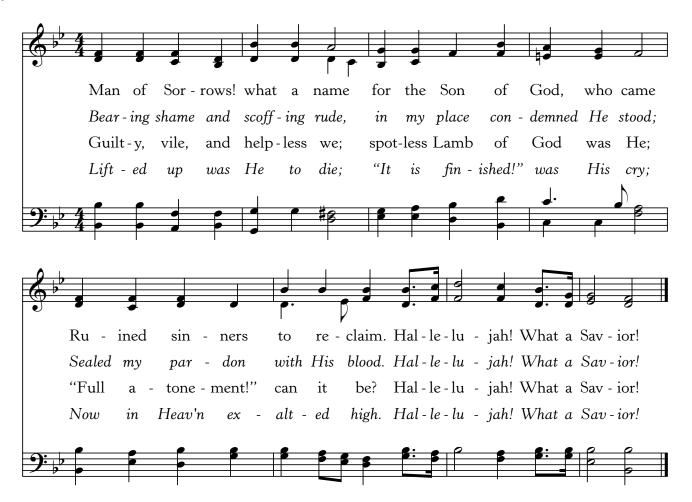
Give us this day our daily bread.

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—Man Of Sorrows!



Text and Music: Phillip P. Bliss, 1875.

## 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 1 Thessalonians 3:13

Now, may He establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. Go forth in grace. *Amen*.

## Sung Response—Christ Be With Me (from St. Patrick's Breastplate)



Christ be with me, Christ with in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,



Christ be - side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re - store me,



Christ be - neath me, Christ a - bove me, Christ in qui - et, Christ in dan-ger,



Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stran-ger.

Text: Atomriug indui niurt tren, St. Patrick, 5th Century, Tr. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1889; Music: ST. PATRICK CLONMACNOISE, Traditional Irish Hymn Melody.

#### Announcements

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## Worship Notes:

Last week, all of the snow shoveling I had to do gave me ample time to catch up on some podcasts. I was listening to a discussion on worship, in which one of the guests was critiquing certain hymns and songs for excessive use of the first-person perspective. He argued that too many instances of words like "I" and "me" could promote a self-focused or individualistic approach to worship. Glancing at the hymns in this week's bulletin, while there are some that describe the Lord in third person (such as All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name and Man of Sorrows!) and several times where we address Him directly ("Lord, tear out the horrid fangs of these young lions" in Psalm 58 and "Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed" from For All The Saints), there are also a fair amount of first person pronouns. But notice how many of them are plural: "At the lamb's high feast we sing," "we at His feet may fall," Unto Christ who loved us," "Lamb of God ... have mercy on us," "We give You thanks for Your great glory," "We cling alone to Jesus." Christ saves us individually, but He also calls us together to be a people—to be saints. This is part of the point behind Paul's injunction against lawsuits among the brethren in 1 Corinthians 6. Let us avoid quarreling, and instead remember that we are to be "bound in love together" on the heights of Zion. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Saints, Judge, Angels, Suffer, Wrong, Defraud

**Keystone Verse:** Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? (1 Corinthians 6:2)



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