

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter 14 April 2024 As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation, so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent. —*Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter 15.4

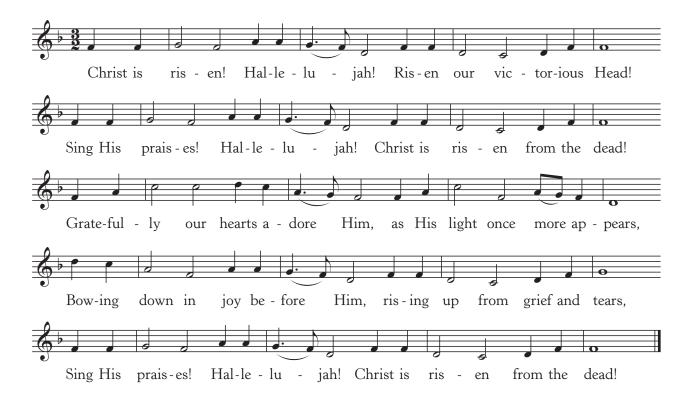
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—from Luke 5:31-32

Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

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-from Psalm 95:6, 9; Isaiah 6:1-3

Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: The Lord is sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Reader 1: Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Reader 2: And one called to another and said:

All: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"

Pastor: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!

2

Congregational Hymn—All Creatures Of Our God And King



Text: Francis of Assisi, c. 1225, tr. William H. Draper, 1926; Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Cologne, 1623.

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-The Lord I Will At All Times Bless (Psalm 34)



Text: Psalm 34:1-22, *The Psalter with Music*, 1900, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2021; Music: BETHESDA/DUPLEX, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

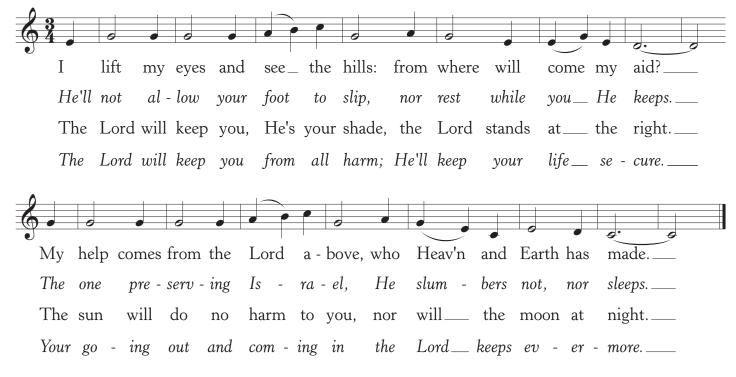
Scripture Reading—Isaiah 35:1-6

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Psalm—I Lift My Eyes And See The Hills (Psalm 121)

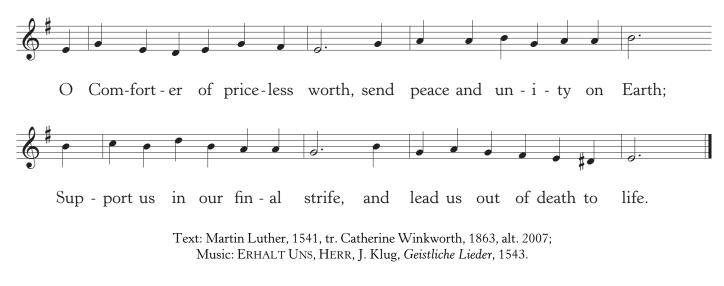


Text: Psalm 121:1-8, *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications; Music: HOPE, D. Bruce Martin, 1920.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 12:12-17

¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.



Sung Response—Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word, Vs. 3

Sermon—Strengthening Your Weak Knees

-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 Proverbs 28:13; Deuteronomy 29:13, 18-19

- Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. You have established us today as Your people, that You may be our God, as You promised us.
- All: We have a heart that turns away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations.
- Pastor: There is among us a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit. Despite hearing the words of Your curse against sin, we bless ourselves in our hearts.
- All: We say, "We shall be safe, though we walk in the stubbornness of our own hearts."

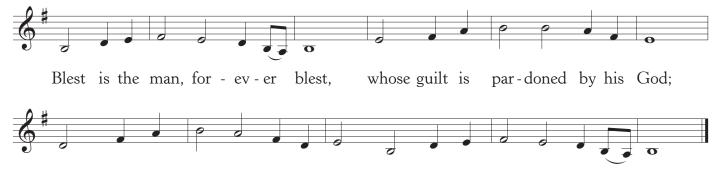
Assurance of Pardon-from Hosea 14:1-4

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In You the orphan finds mercy." Thus says the Lord: "I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them."

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—Blest Is The Man (Psalm 32), Vs. 1



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.

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:

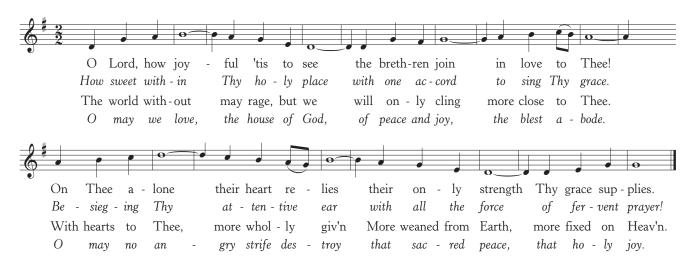


CCLI #2844402 @2009 Greyfriars Press. Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory Wilbur, 2009.

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-O Lord, How Joyful 'Tis To See



Text: Charles Coffin, 1736, tr. John Chandler, 1837; Music: O WALY WALY, Traditional English folk song.

Congregational Psalm—Fret Not Yourself (Psalm 37)



Text: paraphrase of Psalm 37, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020; Music: GRAYMERE, Henry C. Haffner and Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020.

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-Rejoice, The Lord Is King!



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

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—from 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. *Amen*.

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



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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Reformed worship is often described as *dialogical*: God declares something to us from His Word, and we respond with prayer and song; we confess our sins, and God responds, assuring us of His pardon. This emphasizes the vertical aspect of worship, the relationship between God and humanity. But we shouldn't neglect the horizontal aspect, the relationship of believers to one another, addressed in this morning's sermon text from Hebrews ("Strive for peace with everyone," "See to it that no one fails"). Notice how many times the psalms and hymns we sing this morning address ourselves with encouragement or warning, suggesting Paul's command in Colossians 3:16 to teach and admonish "one another in all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Throughout the service, we'll be reminded to "lift up your voice and with us sing," to do our part by "forgiving others," to "do good" and "seek peace," to "love the house of God," to "fret not" and "dwell faithfully." Even our final hymn, which describes the kingship of Christ, concludes with a refrain addressed to us: "Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!" —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words:Strengthen, Straight, Heal, Peace, Holiness, Unholy, RepentancesKeystone Verse:Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for
your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.
(Hebrews 12:12-13)



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