

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Ordinary Time 1 August 2021 The most radical demand of the Christian faith lies in summoning the courage to say 'yes' to the present risenness of Jesus Christ. —Brennan Manning

The cross tells us that death is only half the story. And the resurrection tells us that it is by far the least compelling half.

—J.A. Alexander

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 1 Corinthians 6:14

He who raised Christ from the dead will also raise us up by His power.

Introit—O Worship The King, Vs. 1





Our shield and de-fend-er, the An-cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor, and gird-ed with praise.

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

Call to Worship—based on Habakkuk 3:1-4, 6, 18-19

Leader: In the midst of the years, O Lord, revive Your work.

All: O Lord, in wrath remember mercy.

Reader 1: Your splendor covers the heavens and the earth is full of Your praise. Your brightness is like the light; rays flash from Your hand; and there You veil Your power.

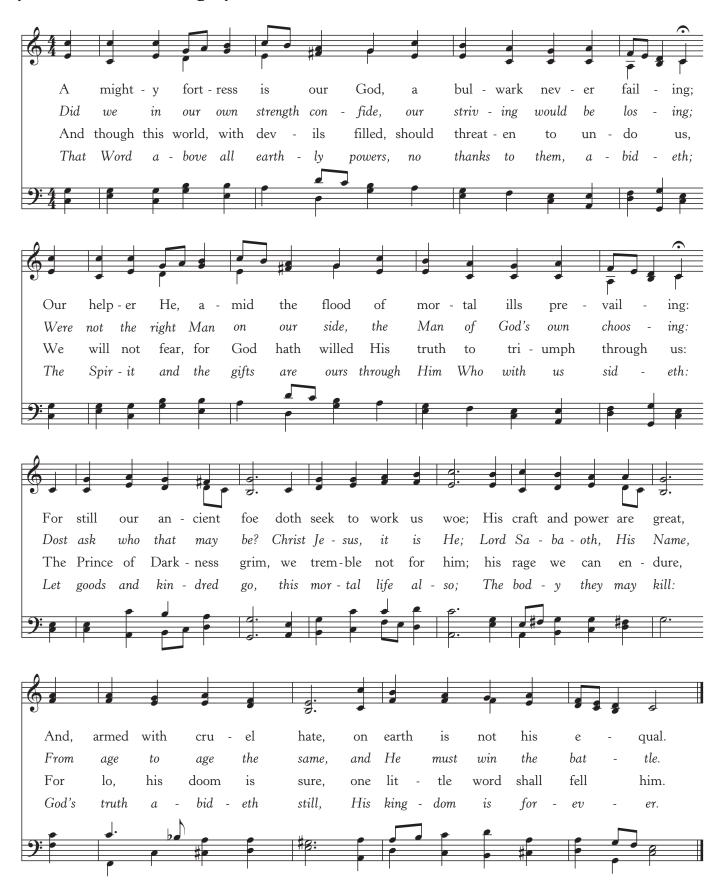
Reader 2: You stand and measure the earth; You look and shake the nations and the eternal mountains are scattered; the everlasting hills sink low. Yours are the everlasting ways.

Leader: We will rejoice in the Lord; we will take joy in the God of our salvation. God, the Lord, is our strength.

All: He makes our feet like those of a deer.

Leader: He makes us tread on high places.

Hymn of Praise—A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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

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



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

Scripture Reading—1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise—Crown Him With Many Crowns



Baptism of Chloe, Nathanael, Ayers, and Camillei Evans, children of Thomas and Christina Evans

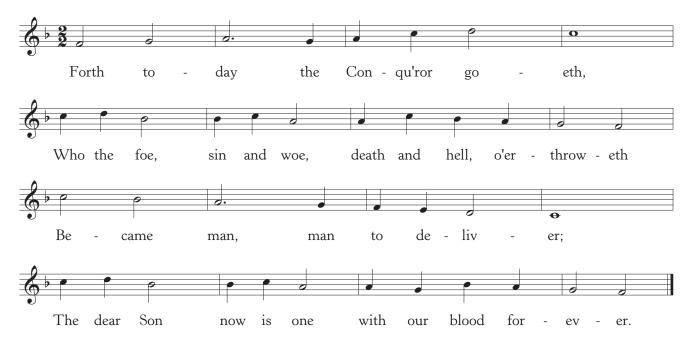
Reading of the Word—1 Corinthians 15:50-58

For I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—All My Heart This Night Rejoices, Vs. 2



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1653, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, Alt. 2018; Music: WARUM SOLLT' ICH MICH DENN GRAMEN, Johann Ebeling, 1666.

Sermon—Steadfast, Immovable, and Abounding

—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 John 20:24-25; Mark 9:24; Isaiah 1:4

Pastor: Lord, we confess that like Thomas, whatever faith we may have is bedeviled by doubt. When the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord," he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe."

All: So with the faithful through the ages we cry, "Lord, we believe. Help us in our unbelief."

Pastor: Lord, we confess that we are a sinful people, laden with iniquity.

All: We are sinners and the offspring of sinners. We are doubters, as foolish as children. We have forsaken the Lord; we have despised the Holy One; we have estranged ourselves.

Assurance of Pardon—John 20:26-29; Psalm 145:13-14, 17; Romans 3:23-24

Jesus came and stood among His doubting disciples and said, "Peace be with you." He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." The Lord is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works. The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by His grace as a gift through

the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

Sung Response—How Deep The Father's Love For Us, Vs. 3



But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

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:



Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; Music: CLOVERCROFT SANCTUS, 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.

Song of Reflection—O Tell Me No More

O tell me no more of this world's vain store, The time for such trifles with me now is o'er' A country I've found where true joys abound, To dwell I'm determined on that happy ground Forever on that happy ground

No mortal man knows what Jesus bestows, What life strength and comfort! Go after Him, go! Lo, onward I move, to see Him above, None guesses how wondrous my journey will prove, How wondrous my journey will prove. Great spoils I shall win from death, hell and sin, 'Mid outward affliction, know Jesus within; And still, which is best, I in His dear breast, As at the beginning, find pardon and rest, With Jesus find pardon and rest.

When I am to die, "Receive me," I'll cry, For Jesus has loved me, I cannot tell why. But this I do find, we two are so joined, He'll not live in glory and leave me behind He never will leave me behind.

This blessing is mine, through favor divine,
And O, my dear Jesus, the praise shall be Thine
In heaven we'll meet in harmony sweet,
And glory to Jesus! We'll then be complete,
O glory! We'll then be complete.

Text: John Gambold, 1742, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019; Music: ELM SPRINGS, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Hymn of Praise—Abide With Me



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.

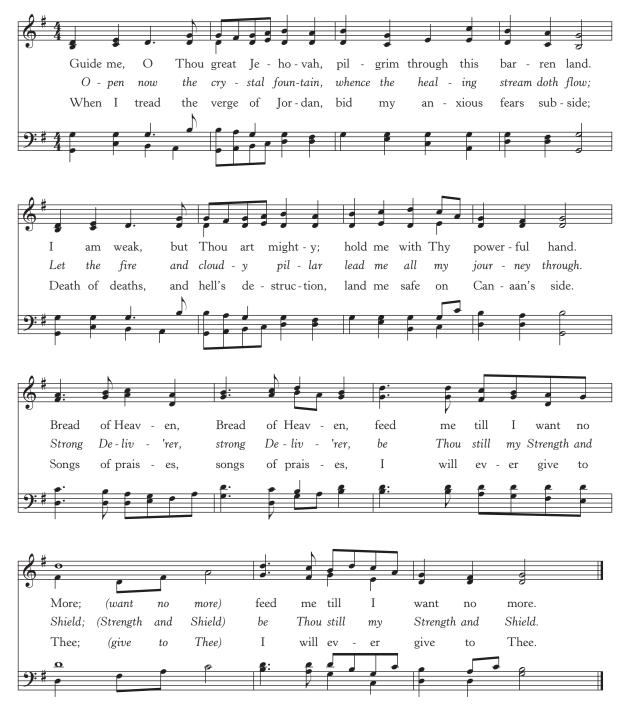
Give us this day our daily bread.

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—Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



Text: William Williams, 1745; Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907.

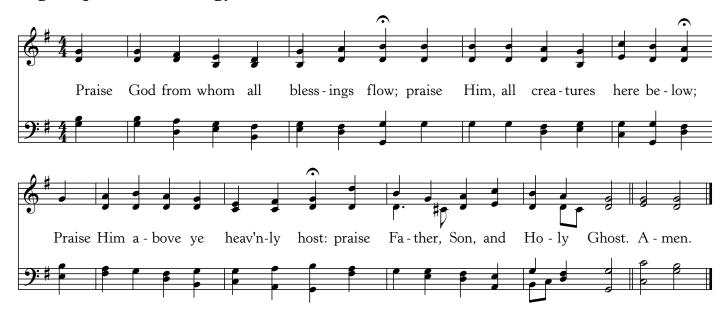
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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 13:5-6

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." *Amen*.

Sung Response—Doxology



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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Jesus came to vanquish the final enemy, death itself—and He must win the battle. He is triumphant over the grave and lives that death may die. He is a mighty conqueror, who overthrows death and hell. We can boast in His death and resurrection because His wounds paid our ransom. Because of His atoning sacrifice, we receive great spoils from death, hell, and sin, and we will be complete when we join Him in glory. Death no longer has its sting; the grave has no victory. Instead, we triumph if He abides with us. Christ proclaims the death of deaths and hell's destruction. We'll sing each of these wonderful truths this morning, as we hear the climactic ending of 1 Corinthians 15 preached. I pray that these truths will take deep roots in our hearts, inspiring us to steadfastness in the work of the Lord—because in Him, our labor is not in vain. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Imperishable, Immortality, Steadfast, Immovable, Abounding, Labor Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:57)



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