



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ascension Sunday

16 May 2021

History is His Story. —J. I. Packer

History is a story written by the finger of God. —C.S. Lewis

Time after time mankind is driven against the rocks of the horrid reality of a fallen creation. And time after time mankind must learn the hard lessons of history—the lessons that for some dangerous and awful reason we can't seem to keep in our collective memory. —Hilaire Belloc

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—Ecclesiastes 3:11

God has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart.

Introit—A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs. 1

A hymn of glo-ry let us sing! New songs through-out the world shall ring,
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ by a road be-fore un-trod,
A-scend-eth to the throne of God! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 8th C. Tr. Benjamin Webb, 1854;
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 136: 1, 3-4, 23-24, 26

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good

All: For His steadfast love endures forever.

Reader 1: To Him who alone does great wonders, for His steadfast love endures forever.

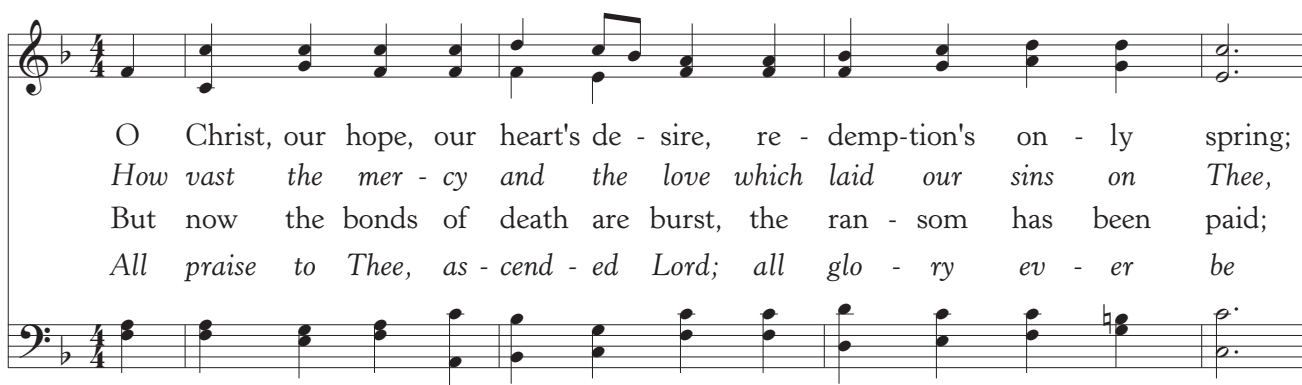
Reader 2: It is He who remembered us in our low estate, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Reader 3: And He rescued us from our foes, for His steadfast love endures forever.

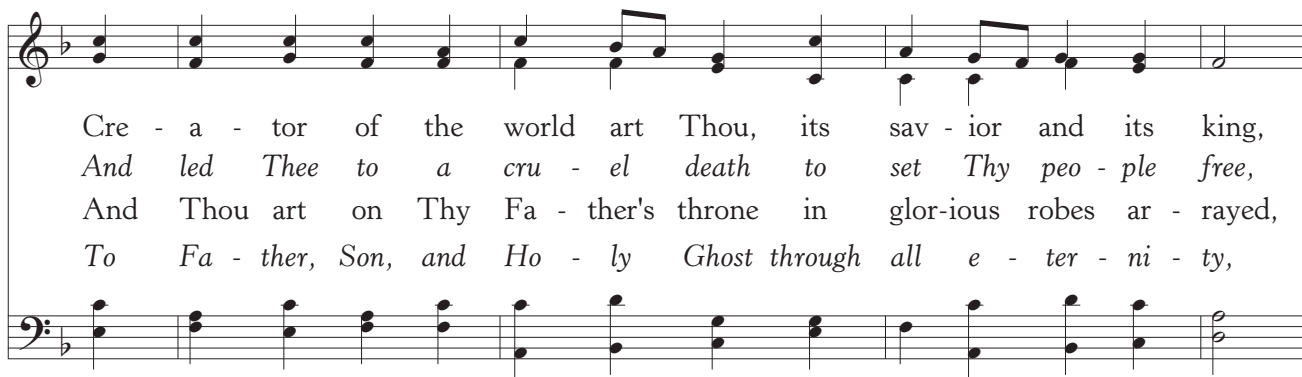
All: Give thanks to the God of heaven

Pastor: For His steadfast love endures forever.

Hymn of Praise—O Christ, Our Hope



O Christ, our hope, our heart's de - sire, re - demp-tion's on - ly spring;
How vast the mer - cy and the love which laid our sins on Thee,
But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been paid;
All praise to Thee, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry ev - er be



Cre - a - tor of the world art Thou, its sav - ior and its king,
And led Thee to a cru - el death to set Thy peo - ple free,
And Thou art on Thy Fa - ther's throne in glor-ious robes ar - rayed,
To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost through all e - ter - ni - ty,



Its sav - ior and its king.
To set Thy peo - ple free.
In glor-ious robes ar - rayed.
Through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin Hymn, 8th C. Tr. John Chandler, 1837;
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1560.

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—O Sing A New Song To The Lord! (Psalm 98)

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'O sing a new song to the Lord! For wonders He has done, For wonders He has done; His right hand and His holy arm The victory have won the victory have won, The victory have won, the victory have won, the victory have won. vic - to - ry have won. won, the vic - to - ry have won. vic - to - ry have won.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a strong emphasis on the words 'victory' and 'won'.

O sing a new song to the Lord! For wonders He has done,
For wonders He has done; His right hand and His holy arm
The vic - to - ry have won the vic - to - ry have won,
The vic - to - ry have won, the vic - to - ry have won, the
won, the vic - to - ry have won.
vic - to - ry have won.
won, the vic - to - ry have won.
vic - to - ry have won.

2. He mindful of His grace and truth
To Isr'el's house has been.
The great salvation of our God
All ends of Earth have seen.

3. Because He comes, He surely comes,
The judge of Earth to be!
With justice He will judge the world,
All men with equity.

Text: from Psalm 98, *Book of Psalms for Singing*, 1973;
Music: DESERT (LYNGHAM), Thomas Jarmon, c. 1803.

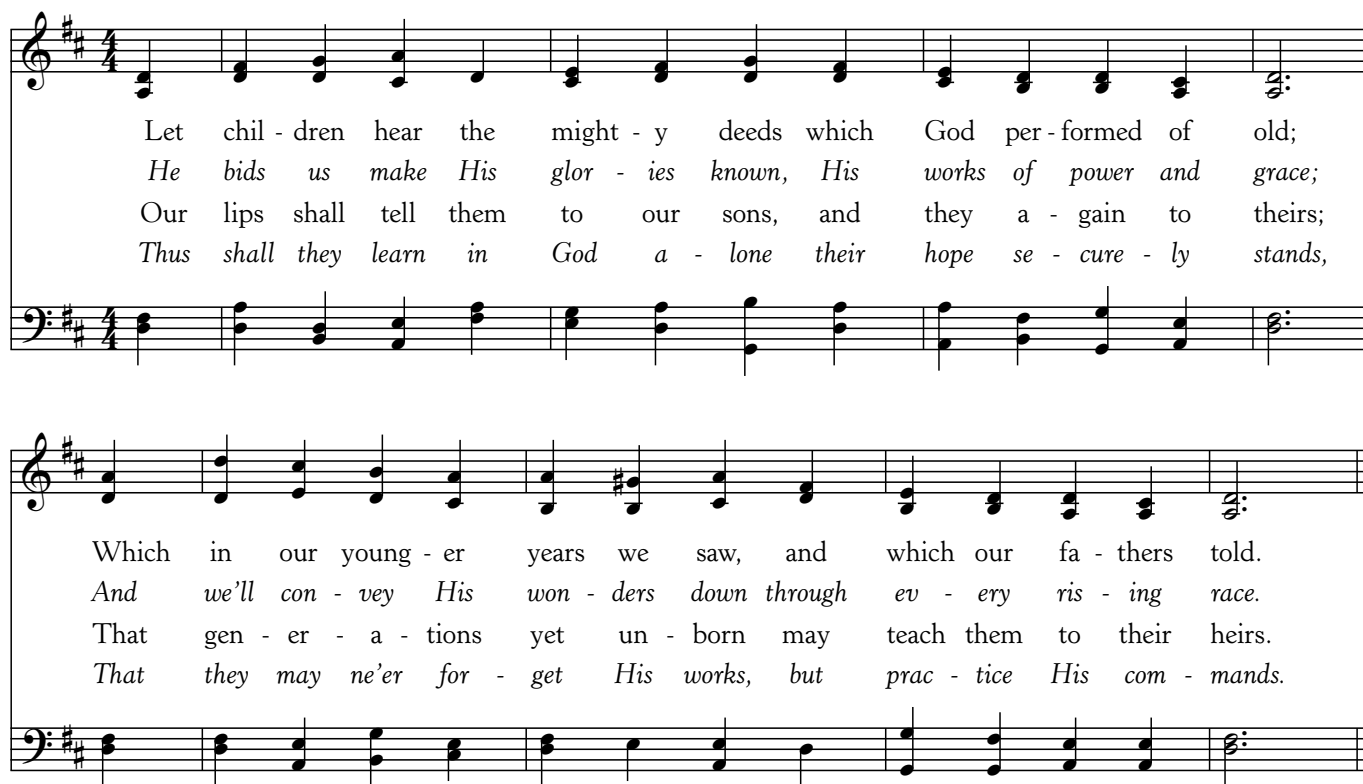
Scripture Reading—Psalm 78:1-8

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of Praise—Let Children Hear The Mighty Deeds (Psalm 78)



Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds which God per - formed of old;
He bids us make His glor - ies known, His works of power and grace;
Our lips shall tell them to our sons, and they a - gain to theirs;
Thus shall they learn in God a - lone their hope se - cure - ly stands,

Which in our young - er years we saw, and which our fa - thers told.
And we'll con - vey His won - ders down through ev - ery ris - ing race.
That gen - er - a - tions yet un - born may teach them to their heirs.
That they may ne'er for - get His works, but prac - tice His com - mands.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, Psalm 78:1-7;
Music: DUNDEE, Scottish Psalter, 1615.

Reading of the Word—1 Corinthians 10:1-14

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—All People That On Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100), Vs. 4

Be - cause the Lord our God is good, His mer-cy is for ev - er sure;

His truth at all times firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Text: William Kethe, 1561; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Sermon—*For Our Instruction*

—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—Psalm 90: 7-8, 12, 13-14

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. For we are brought to an end by Your anger.

All: By Your wrath we are dismayed.

Pastor: You have set our iniquities before You.

All: Our secret sins are exposed in the light of Your presence.

Pastor: So, teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Have pity on Your servants!

All: Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad.

Assurance of Pardon—Psalm 111:1, 4, 9-10; John 3:16-17

Praise the Lord! The Lord is gracious and merciful. He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name! The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Pastor: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness, Vs. 3



My heart is filled with thank-ful - ness to Him who reigns a - bove;



Whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose ev - 'ry thought is love.



For ev - 'ry day I have on Earth is giv - en by the King.



So I will give my life, my all, to love and fol - low Him.

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:

WOMEN

MEN Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, - Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men. san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.

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

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 dip the bread in the cup of wine or grape juice.

Psalm of Praise—My God, My God, Come Hear My Plea (Psalm 22)



My God, My God, come hear my plea; O why have You for - sa - ken me?
On You, On You I learned to rest when I was on my mo - ther's breast;
My bones, my bones they have laid bare, the gar - ments torn from me they share



You're far from me in my dis - tress; both day and night I find no__ rest.
From birth You were my God a - lone, Your care my life has ev - er__ known.
My shame and sor - row count-ing not, and for my robe they cast their lots.



Our fa - thers trust - ed in Your name, were saved, and were not put to shame;
O let Your strength and pre - sence cheer, for trou - ble and des - pair are near;
O Lord, a - far no long - er stay; O Lord, my help, make haste, I pray;



But in the dust my hon - or lies, while all re - proach and all des - pise.
O be not far a - way from me, no oth - er source of help I__ see.
From death and e - vil set me free; I live, for You have an - swered me.

Text: from Psalm 22:1-21, *The Psalter*, 1912, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019; Music: DONELSON, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Hymn of Praise—Great Is Thy Faithfulness



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no shad-ow of turn - ing with Thee;
Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth Thine own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang-est not, Thy com - pass-ions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er will be.
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
Strength for to-day and bright hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see.



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vi - ded; great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Music: FAITHFULNESS (RUNYAN), William M. Runyan, 1923.

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.*

Psalm of Praise—O God, Our Help In Ages Past (Psalm 90)

O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,
O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come:

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
Be Thou our guard while trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home.

Text: based on Psalm 90, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1708.

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.

Commissioning—Ben George

Reception of New Members

Benediction—Ephesians 3:20-21

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.*

Sung Response—A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs. 7

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The lyrics are: 'O ris-en Christ, a-scend-ed Lord, all praise to Thee let earth ac-cord, A-le-lu-ia! A-le-lu-ia! Who art, while end-less ag-es run, With Fa-ther and with Spir-it one. A-le-lu-ia! A-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on a whole note chord.

O ris-en Christ, a-scend-ed Lord, all praise to Thee let earth ac-cord,

A-le-lu-ia! A-le-lu-ia! Who art, while end-less ag-es run,

With Fa-ther and with Spir-it one. A-le-lu-ia! A-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 8th C. Tr. Benjamin Webb, 1854;
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Have you ever noticed how often the Psalter calls us to look back on the past? Many of the Scripture passages in this morning's bulletin are taken from the Psalter, and each one refers to God's working out His providence in history. We are called to hear "dark sayings from of old" that our fathers told us and that we should tell our children (Psalm 78). We are reminded that the Lord rescued His people in the past and that His love will endure forever (Psalm 136; Psalm 111). We confess that we learned to rest in His provision from childhood ("when I was on my mother's breast"), as did our fathers who trusted in His name (Psalm 22). We are told to "number our days," recalling that our God was a help in ages past and is our only hope for years to come (Psalm 90). This call to reflect on the things God has done extends even to the negative examples, as Paul models for us in 1 Corinthians 10. The unpleasant examples in history speak to the ubiquity of human sinfulness ("No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man"), and the unfailing mercy of our God ("He will also provide the way of escape"). As we'll sing from Psalm 100, "Because the Lord our God is good, His mercy is forever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood and shall from age to age endure."

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Brothers, Fathers, Examples, Idolaters, Instruction, Temptation, Common, Endure
Keystone Verse: These things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction.
(1 Corinthians 10:11)



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Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

Deacons

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