Walking in Newness

7th Sunday of Eastertide
Ascension Sunday
May 29, 2022

Ascension

Stretching Himself as if again,
through downpress of dust
upward, soul giving way
to thread of white, that reaches
for daylight, to open as green
leaf that it is...
Can Ascension
not have been
arduous, almost,
as the return
from Sheol, and
back through the tomb
into breath?
Matter reanimate
now must relinquish
itself, its
human cells,
molecules, five
senses, linear
vision endured
as Man -
the sole
all-encompassing gaze
resumed now,
Eye of Eternity.
Relinquished, earth's
broken Eden.
Expulsion,
liberation,
last
self-enjoined task
of Incarnation.
He again
Fathering Himself.
Seed-case
splitting.
He again
Mothering His birth:
torture and bliss.

~ Denise Levertov

Large Print orders of worship and devices to improve hearing are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Children's programming is available on the lower level, see page 14 for details.

Welcome

Silent moment to prepare for worship

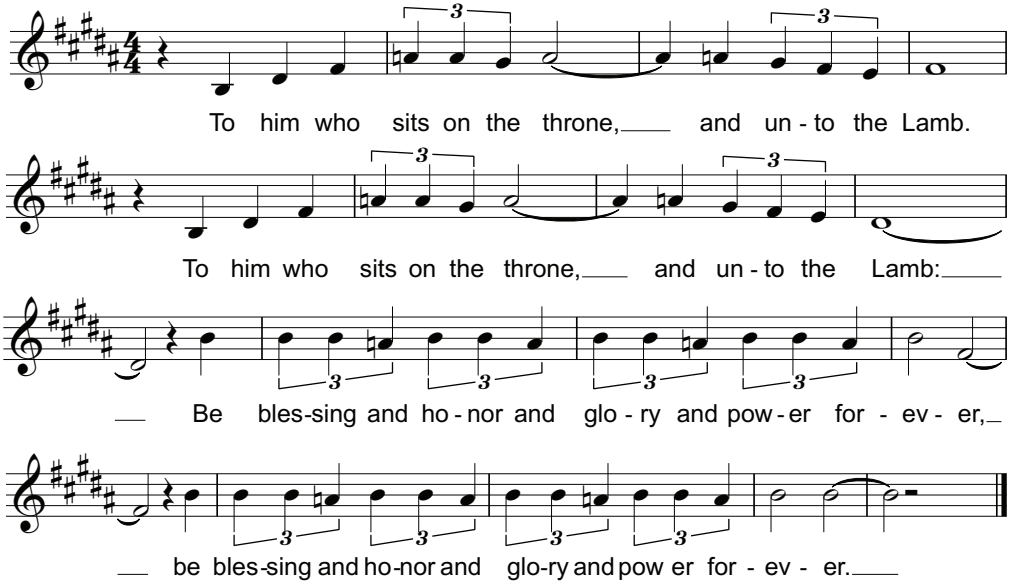
Ascension Call to Worship

Acts 1-6-11 and Revelation 19

Leader: *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

All: **Hallelujah!**
For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.



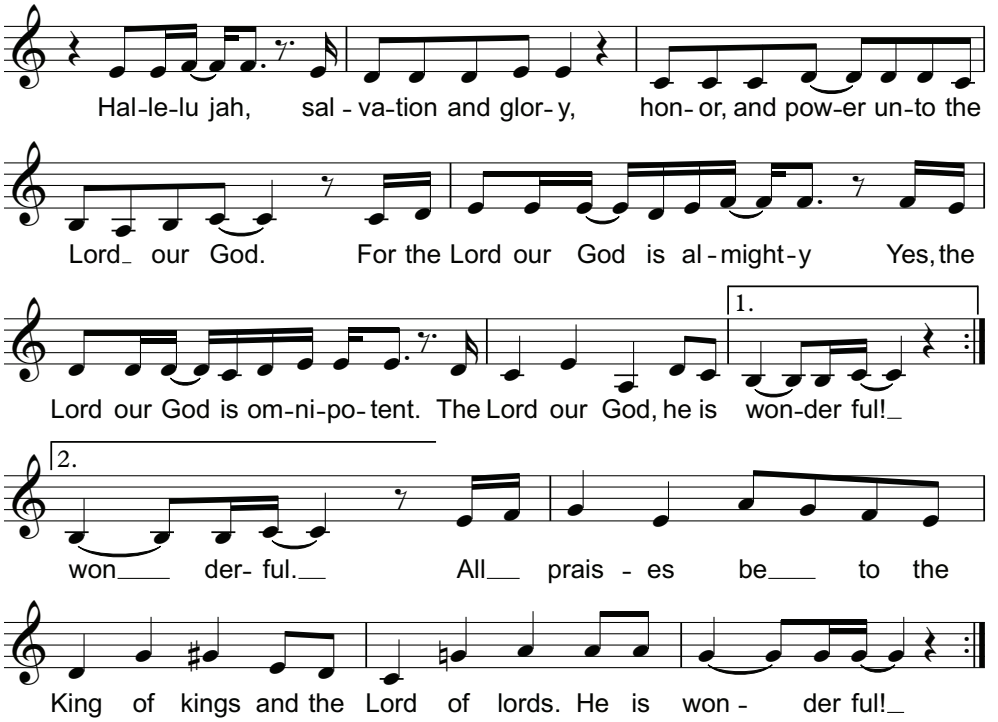
To Him Who Sits on The Throne, Words and Music, Debbye Graafsma, 1985

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

silent prayer of adoration

Holy Father, thank you for the ascension of your Son, Jesus Christ, and that he is present with us now, ruling in peace and justice through your Holy Spirit.

Leader: In the majesty of your reigning Son, and by the power of your Holy Spirit
All: **visit us with your presence today. Amen.**



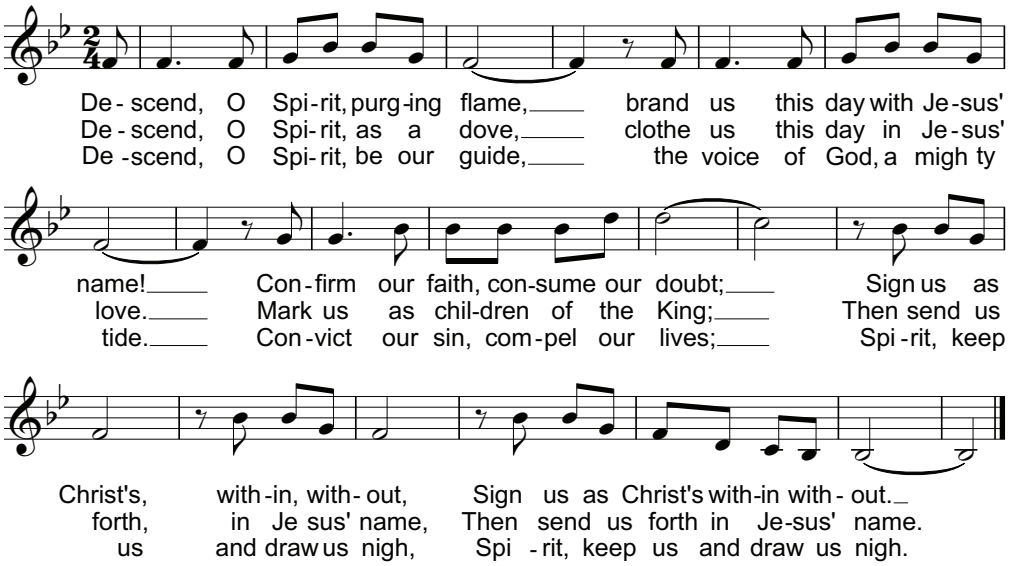
Revelation 19, Words and Music by Jeffrey LaValley, New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church, Flint, MI. 1985

Sacrament of Baptism

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6

Sing to Prepare, Holy Baptism

All:



Lara Sonja Ritsman, daughter of Kelly and Mark, sister of Lucas and Milo

Prayer of Congregational Blessing:

All: Ever-living God, in your mercy you promised to be not only our God but also the God of our children. We thank you for receiving **Lara** by baptism. Keep her always in your love. Guide her as she grows in faith. Protect her in all the dangers and temptations of life. May she be a faithful disciple of your son Jesus Christ to her life's end. In Christ's name, Amen.

All Sing: **"Descend, O Spirit purging flame..."**

Prayer of Lament *from Psalm 13*

Leader: O Lord, we plead with you:

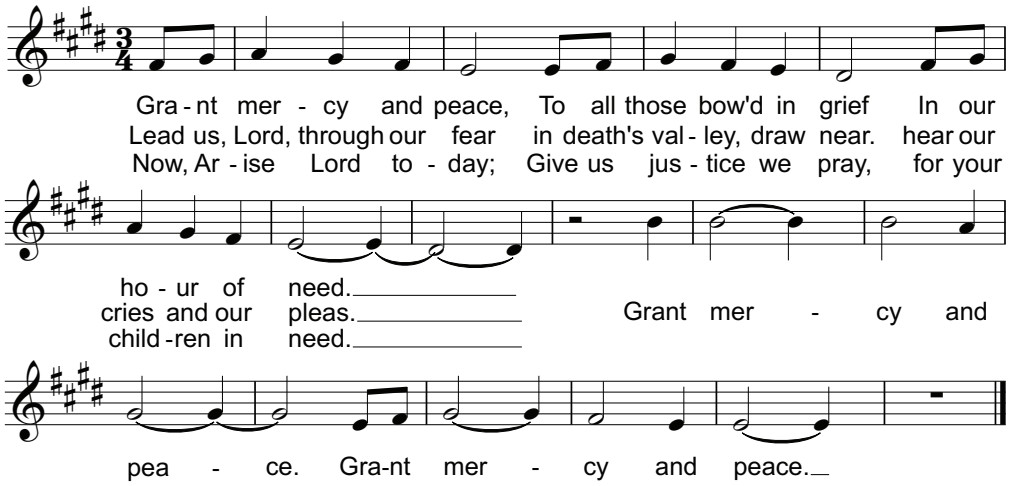
All: Repair the brokenness we share and hear this lament and prayer -

Leader: How long, O LORD? Will you forget us forever? How long will you hide your face from your suffering children? How long must we wrestle with our thoughts and every day have sorrow in our heart?

All: Have mercy on us and those who suffer, O God.

Leader: See our tears and hear our cries. Lead us all through this valley of death's shadow and renew in us the hope, peace and joy of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Have mercy on us and those who suffer, O God. Amen.



Grant Mercy and Peace, Paul van der Bijl, 2011, vs2,3, 2022

moment of silent prayer

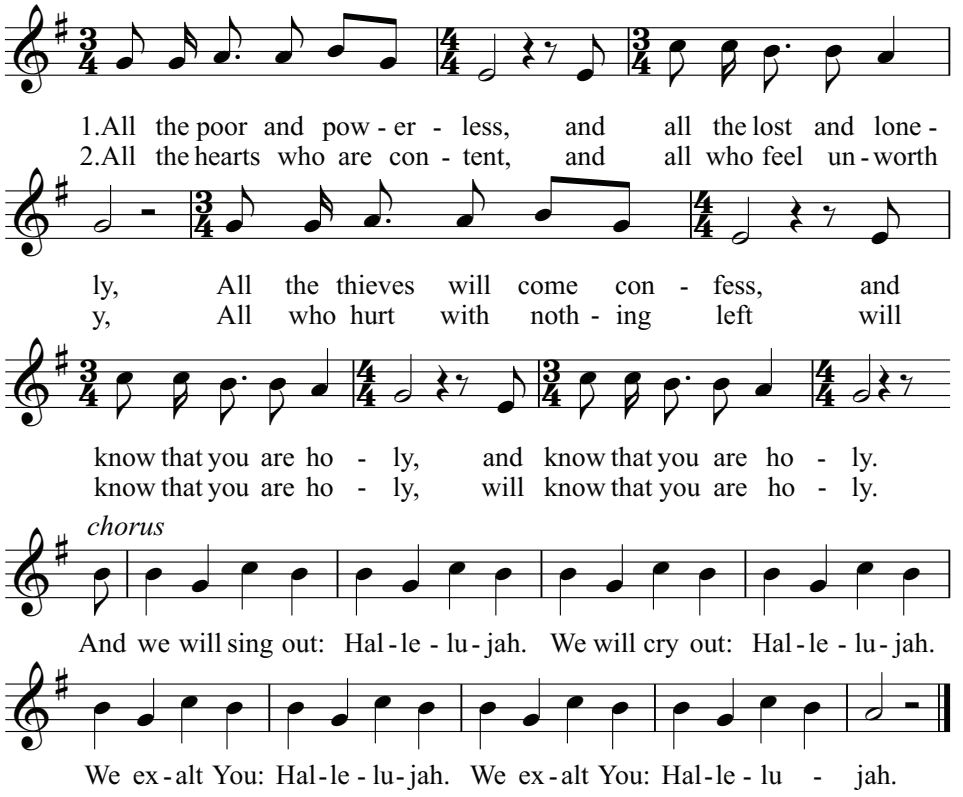
Confession of Sin, *from Psalm 79*

Leader: How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever?
Will your jealousy burn like fire?
Do not remember our iniquities;
Help us, O God of our salvation,
deliver us, and atone for our sins,
for your name's sake!

Silent time to pray and confess

Assurance of Pardon, *adapted from Hebrews 10*

Leader: Christ sacrificed himself for our sins and the Holy Spirit bears witness to us.
He remembers our sins and our lawless deeds no more.



All the Poor and Powerless, Words and Music by David Leonard and Leslie Jordan, 2011

Lessons from the Word

read by Nathan Beyer

Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 44:17-26
Gospel Lesson - Matthew 6:26-34

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

All sing: **To Him who is able**
To keep you from falling
To Him to Him to Him
To Him to Him to Him

We are standing in His presence
With our garments clean and white
All glory honor power majesty to Jesus Christ

Jude 23-24, by Sandra McCracken, 2016, Westside Anglican Fellowship, Nashville, TN.

The Word

Pastor Dan Adamson
The Love of God, Romans 8:31–39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He
who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him
graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God
who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who
was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall
separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

> "For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
> we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 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.

Notes:

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All sing: **To Him who is able**
To keep you from falling
To Him to Him to Him
To Him to Him to Him

Passing the Peace and Preparing the Gifts

2 Corinthians 13:11-14: Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

Leader: The Lord be with you
All: And also with you.

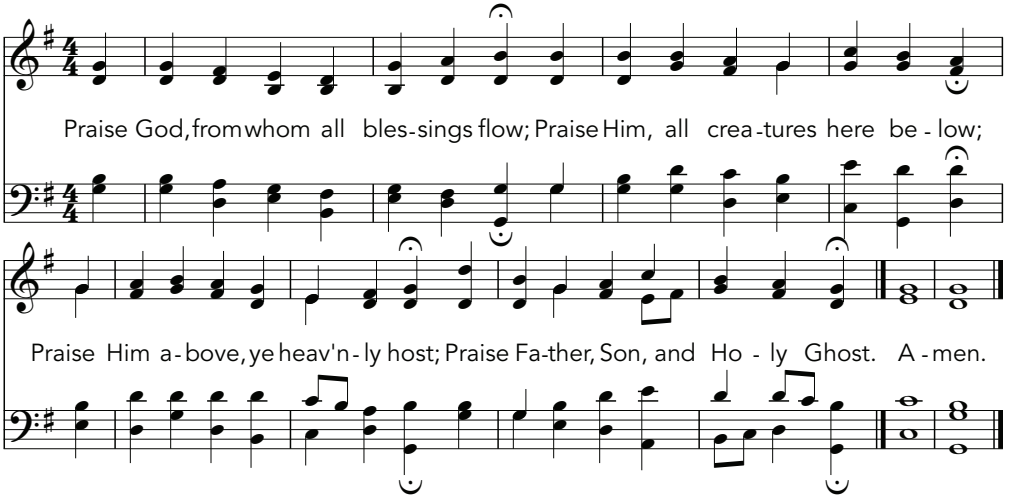
Leader: Lift up your hearts
All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Greet each other in the name of Christ

Giving back to God a portion of what he's already given us is an important part of the Christian life. The bread and wine we use in communion are a picture of the gifts that God has given us, offered back to him as an act of worship. You can offer your resources back to God in support of the work of the church by placing your offering in the boxes in the back on the way out. You can also give online at covenantchicago.org/give, use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.

All: Doxology, Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, German Psalter, 1561



Ascension Great Thanksgiving, *from The Archbishops' Council, Church of England, 2008*

Leader: As we approach your table, grant us the peace with each other that we find in you so that we can come to this feast united in love. Accept now our offerings of bread, wine and gifts to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the work of your kingdom.

With clear hearts and minds,
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

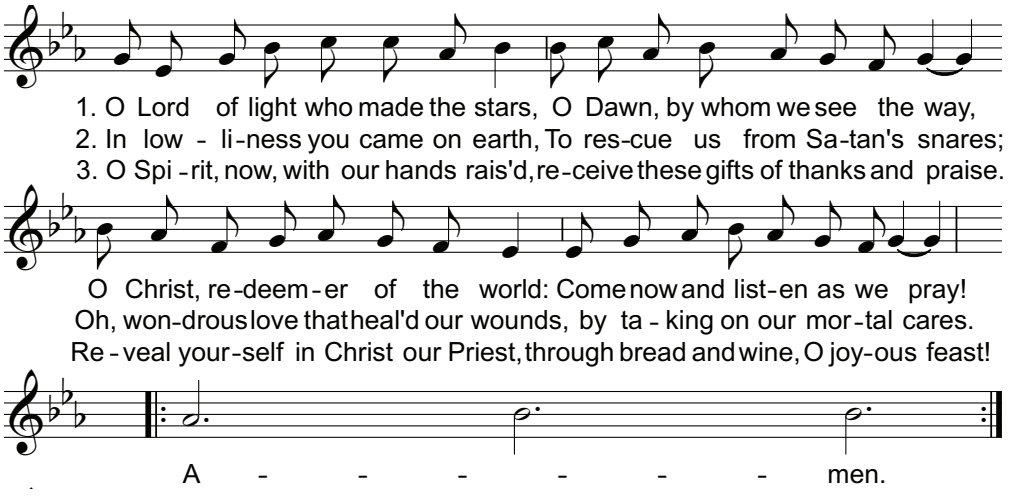
Leader: For he is our great high priest
who has ascended once for all
into the heavenly sanctuary,
evermore to pour upon your Church
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

**All: He has gone before us,
yet He is present with us
in the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.**

Leader: Therefore, all creation yearns with eager longing
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**



Distribute the Bread & Cup

Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice.
There is individually wrapped gluten free bread available.

Receiving Communion
Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. We invite all to partake of this sacrament who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and seek strength to live more faithfully for him.

Silent prayers for reflection

Prayer for those taking communion

Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Music for Communion

Mercy Tree
sung by the Student Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson MS

On a hill called Calvary
Stands an endless Mercy Tree
Every broken weary soul
Find your rest and be made whole

Stripes of blood that stain its frame
Shed to wash away our shame
From the scars, pure love released
Salvation by the Mercy Tree

In the sky between two thieves
Hung the blameless Prince of Peace
Bruised and battered, Scarred and scorned
Sacred head pierced by our thorns

"It is finished, " was His cry
The perfect lamb was crucified
His sacrifice, our victory
Our Savior chose the Mercy Tree

Hope went dark that violent day
The whole earth quaked at love's display
Three days silent in the ground
This body born for heaven's crown

And on that bright and glorious day
When heaven opened up the grave
He's alive and risen indeed
Praise Him for the Mercy Tree

Death has died, love has won
Hallelujah!, Hallelujah!
Jesus Christ has overcome
He has risen from the dead

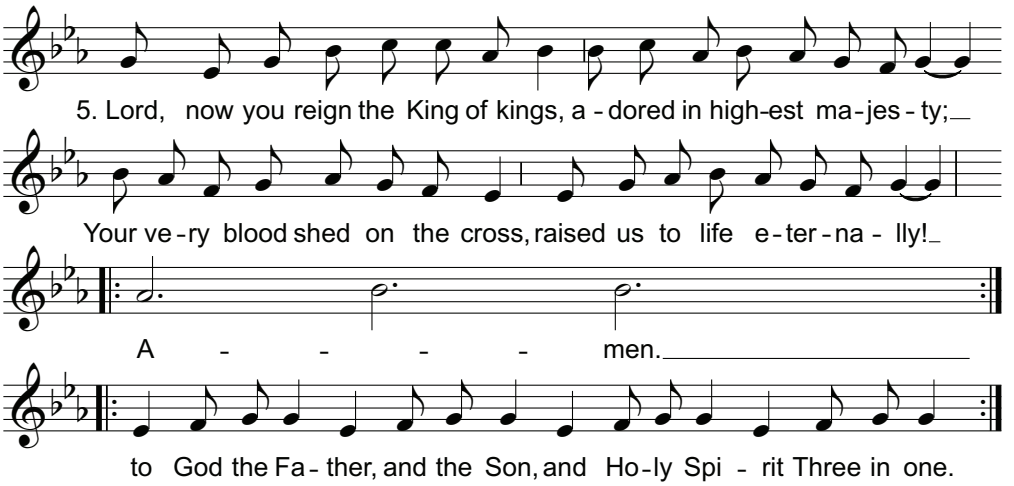
One day soon, we'll see His face
And every tear, He'll wipe away
No more pain or suffering
Oh praise Him for the Mercy Tree

by Meale and Nordhoff, arr. by Joseph Martin

Respond to the Table

Leader: Remembering your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice
dedicated to your service.

All: Great is this mystery of faith:
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

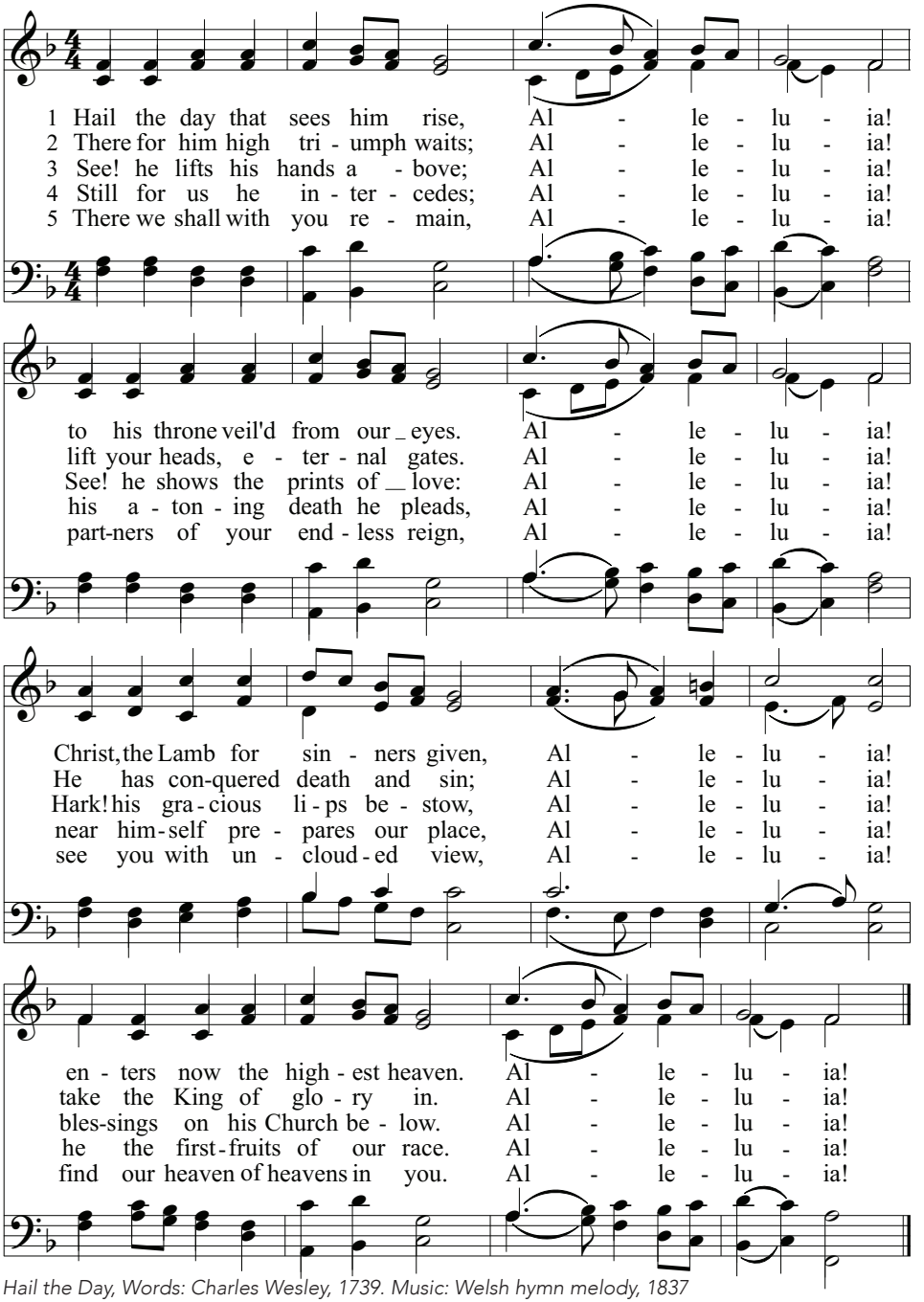


O Lord of Light, Latin chant, 9th cent., Music: Sarum Plainsong

In Community

Announcements about Covenant events and opportunities during the coming weeks.

Go With Joy



Hail the Day, Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Welsh hymn melody, 1837

Leader: **Benediction**

Romans 15:5–7 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church

TODAY AT COVENANT

10:15am service

- Children's Worship: PreK - 5th Grade (Lower Level)
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Large Print orders of worship and electronic hearing assistance devices are available in the back of the sanctuary. An usher can assist you with finding and using these items.

Ukraine Relief Fund. Mission to the World, the mission arm of our denomination, has set up a relief fund to help provide food, transportation, shelter, and medical aid for Ukrainians in hostile areas and for refugees moving toward the western border. You can read more about this effort and donate at https://www.mtw.org/ukraine-crisis.

From Jerusalem to Bucktown: Moments in Church History. How did the church make it from Jerusalem to Bucktown? Why are there so many different "types" of Christians? How has the church navigated culture, political power, and conflict? Join us for a new five-week class on decisive moments in the history of Christianity that continue to shape the life of the global church today. Please join us starting June 5 in the All Saints Room during Common Ground at 10:15. Those interested in attending may contact PD Young (pauldavidy@gmail.com) for details.

One Service Sundays: This summer, Covenant will offer only one service at 10:15am on May 29, June 26, July 3, August 28 and September 4. Please mark your calendars now, and plan to join us for a cookout after worship on June 26 and August 28! Children's Worship and nurseries will be available during worship on these Sundays.

Serve Breakfast at Breakthrough: On the fourth Saturday of every month, Covenant provides breakfast for the Breakthrough women's shelter. If you are interested in volunteering to help purchase, prepare and serve food to shelter guests, please reach out to breakthrough@covenantchicago.org for more information. Sign up to volunteer on June 25 or July 23 at https://covenantchicago.churchcenter.com/registrations.

Gospel Justice Center Prayer Team: Last summer, Covenant launched the Gospel Justice Center, our chapter of a legal services clinic that serves our neighborhood on the second Saturday of every month from 9am to 12pm. We are looking for a few more volunteers who would be willing to join our team onsite to pray for us and our clients while we serve them. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the GJC or volunteering for our prayer team or in other ways, please email Linda Gehrs (lmgehrs@gmail.com).

Volunteer with Children's Ministry: Covenant needs additional volunteers to help in our nurseries, children's worship classroom and Sunday school classrooms. We need volunteers during both services (9:00 and 11:15 am) and during Common Ground (10:15). To volunteer, contact Ian Troll (ian@covenantchicago.org).

Ushers Needed: Covenant is looking for additional volunteers to serve as ushers on Sunday morning. Ushers greet people as they arrive at church and help clean up the sanctuary after the service. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Jonathan Ellison (jellisonimages@gmail.com).

Welcome Table Volunteers Needed: Covenant is looking for a few volunteers to serve at our Welcome Table on Sunday mornings at both services (9:00 and 11:15am). Volunteers will greet people as they leave the service and offer any helpful information regarding adult classes, youth Sunday school, and where to place tear off cards from the bulletin. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer at office@covenantchicago.org.

Sermon Devotional Emails: Twice a week, a team from Covenant sends sermon devotional emails that will help you reflect on and pray through the prior week's sermon text and Scripture lessons. Email devotional@covenantchicago.org to sign up.

Meals Ministry: The Meals Ministry cares for our community by providing occasional meals to individuals and families. If you have recently experienced health problems, have welcomed a new child into your family, or have suffered a loss, please visit covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/ to request a meal. The Meals Ministry also seeks volunteers to cook and deliver meals, and you can sign up to volunteer through the website link. Questions? Contact meals@covenantchicago.org.

Let Us Pray for You. Covenant's staff meets to pray for the congregation throughout the week. We would be honored to pray for you. You can share prayer requests by writing them on the tear out portion at the back of the order of worship or by emailing Pastor David (dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org).

Sermon Text Next Week: Ephesians 4:1-16

Giving QR Code

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker
Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

David Salsedo
Associate Pastor, dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org

Dan Adamson
Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

Jeff Schneider
Church Planting Pastor, jeff@blvdpres.org

Support Staff

Larissa Bossemeyer
Director of Ministries: lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org

Gene Pierson
Director of Finance & Property: gpierson@covenantchicago.org

Ian Troll
Director of Children and Youth Ministries: ian@covenantchicago.org

Paul van der Bijl
Director of Worship and Music: pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org

Session

Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David Dillon, Dave Hoover, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo.

Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org.

Diaconate

Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Joel Miller, Shane Rector, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg

Treasurer: Ben Harvey
If you're in need or wish to speak with a deacon, you can email us at diaconate@covenantchicago.org.

Welcome to Covenant

Please fill out this form, tear it out, and put it in one of the offering boxes at the back of the church.

circle one:

New to Covenant | Regular Attender | Member

Name:

_____

Email:

_____

Address:

_____

Phone:

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❑ ↑*This is new or updated information* ↑

I am interested in:

❑ More information

❑ Small Groups

❑ Service Opportunities

❑ Membership

❑ Receiving the Email Letter

❑ Children and Youth Ministry

❑ Other:

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Prayer Requests:

Covenant Life

Worship Together:
We are made to worship the Triune God, and our worship is always ordered around Jesus Christ and the forgiveness and grace he secured for us by his cross, resurrection and ascension. Gathering around this good news together on Sundays strengthens our appetites, imaginations and abilities to live as followers of Jesus.

Grow and Learn Together:
Learning about our faith and growing together in it forms us into human beings who are fully swept up into the work God is doing to reconcile all things to himself in Jesus. Learning is more than simply knowing; it is the internalization of truth that leads to mature thinking and acting.

Serve Together:
The natural outcome of receiving and experiencing grace is to be propelled outward into mission and service. All of us have been given gifts to use for the good of our common life and for the good of the broken world around us, and we encourage everyone to regularly use their gifts in service.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of CHICAGO

a church, a city,
and a world
continually made new
by the grace of Christ

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773.486.9590

covenantchicago.org