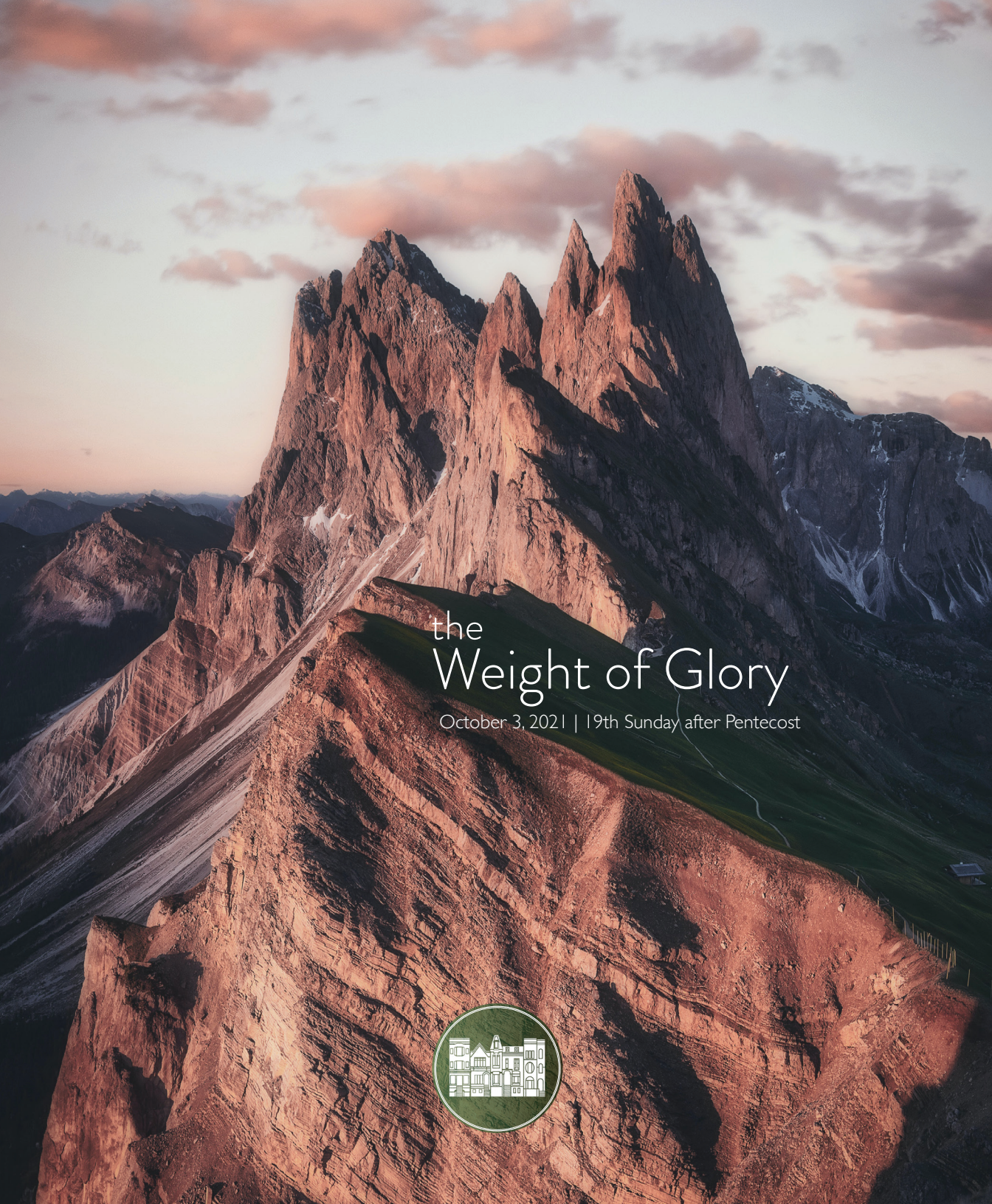


the Weight of Glory

October 3, 2021 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost

O mightiest path which penetrates All,
from the height to every Earthly abyss,
you compose All, you unite All.

Through you clouds stream, ether flies,
stones gain moisture,
waters become streams,
and the earth exudes Life.

You always draw out knowledge,
bringing joy through Wisdom's inspiration.

Therefore, praise be to you
who are the sound of praise
and the greatest prize of Life,
who are hope and richest honor
bequeathing the reward of Light.

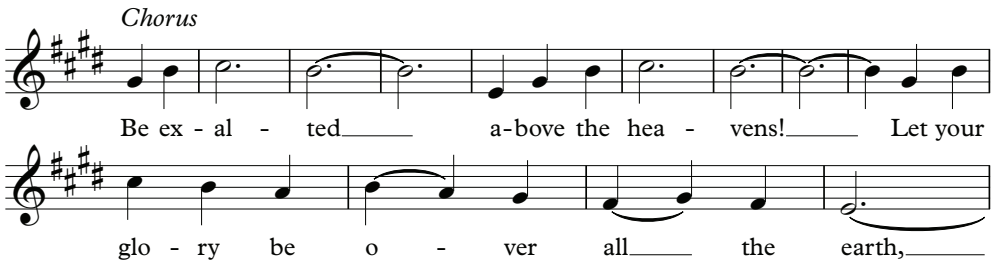
~ Hildegard of Bingen, 1098–1179

Children's programming is available during both services on the lower level, see page 17 for details.

Large Print orders of worship are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Welcome

Silent moment to prepare for worship
By your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.



Call to Worship

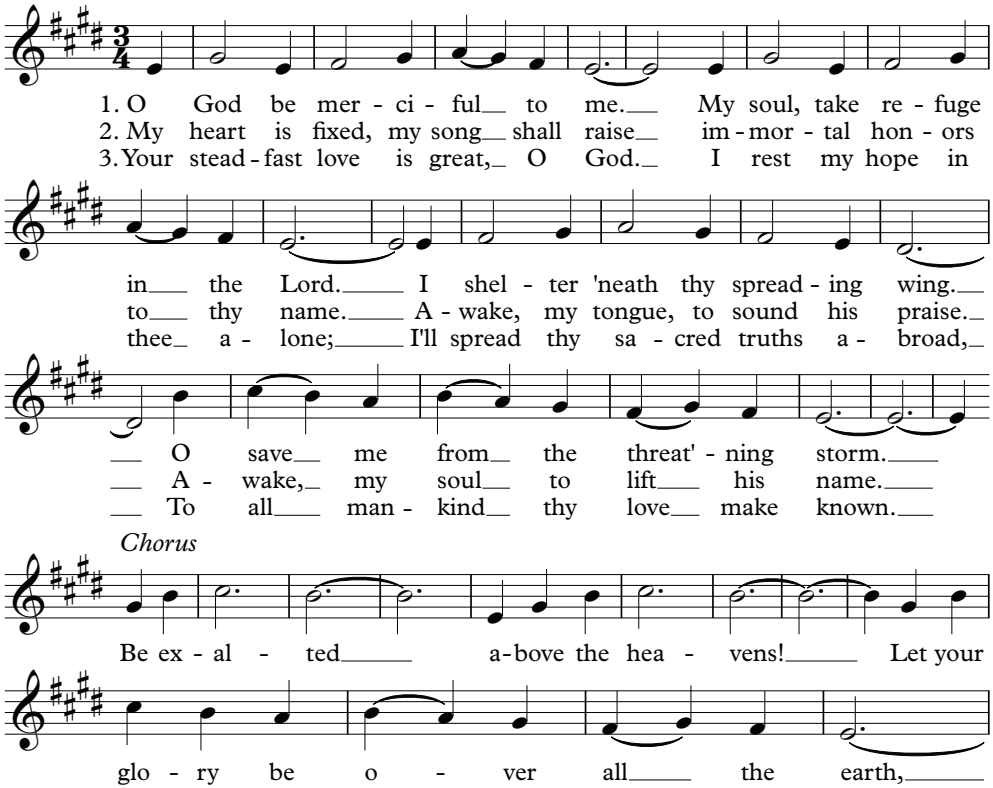
from Psalm 57

Leader: Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
All: My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast!

Leader: I will sing and make melody!
All: Awake, my glory!

Leader: Awake, O harp and lyre!
All: I will awake the dawn!

Leader: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
All: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

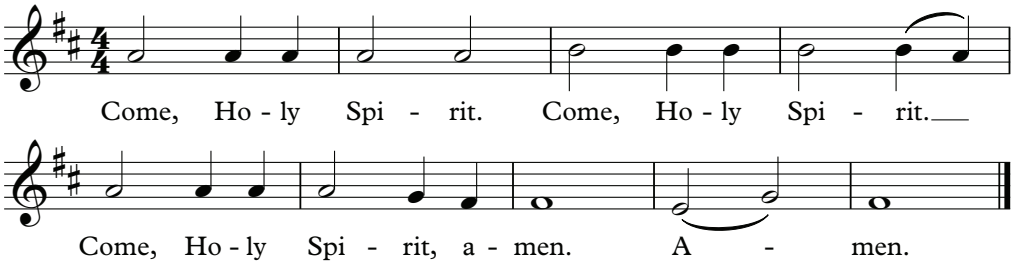


Psalm 57, vs.1-2 by Isaac Watts,1720; vs.3 by William Wrangham, 1829; music by Paul van der Bijl, 2015

Invocation

Choral: Spirit of the living God, visit us with your presence this day,
Like a rushing wind sweep all our barriers away,
With tongues of fire set our hearts aflame,
Spirit of the living God, visit us with your presence this day.

All:

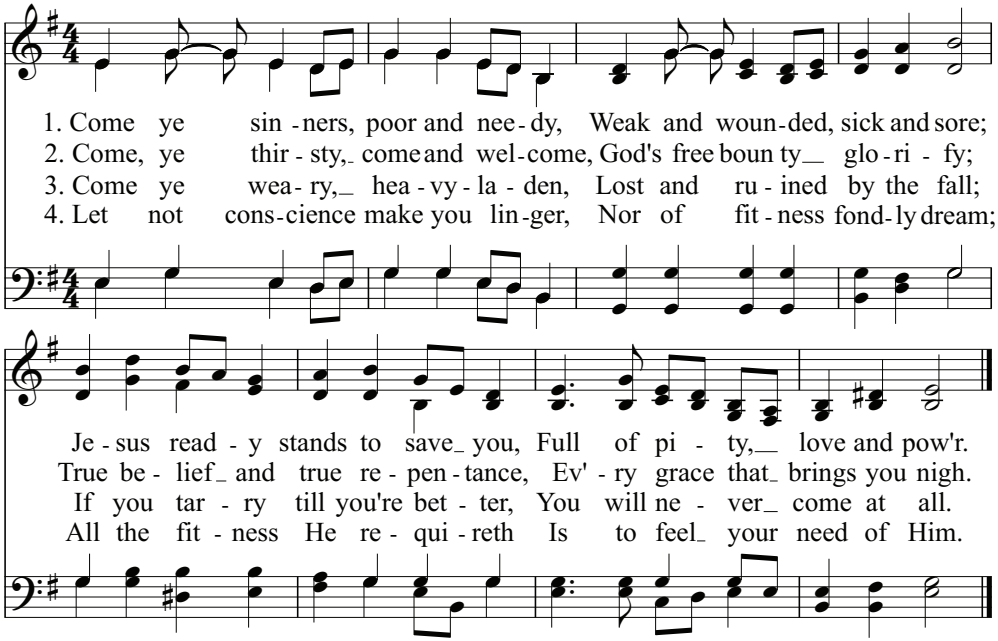


Confession of Sin

Leader: *For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities. Isaiah 59.12*

Song of confession

All:



Come Ye Sinners, Words: Joseph Hart, 1759. Music: William Walker, 1835.

Silent time to pray and confess

Prayer of silent confession:

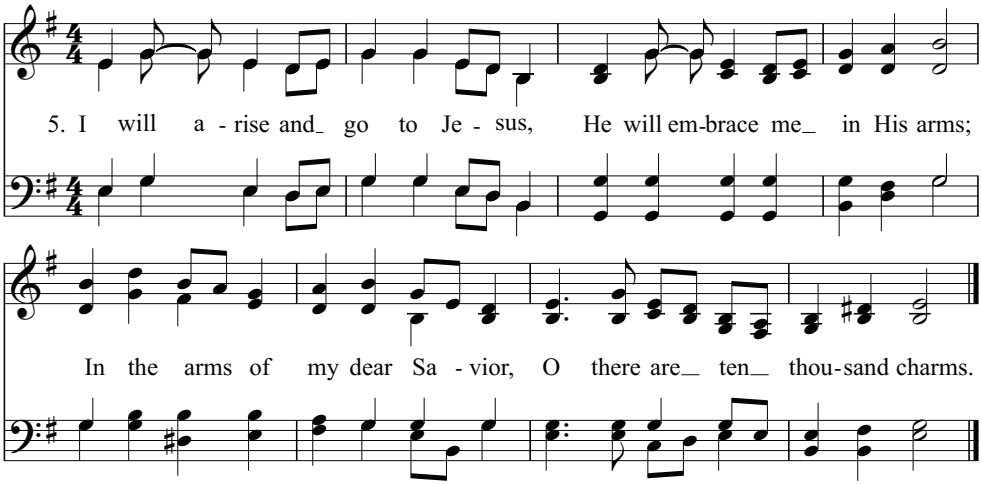
Most merciful God,
I confess that I have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what I have done,
and by what I have left undone.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved my neighbor as myself.
I am truly sorry and I humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on me and forgive me;
that I may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

Song of assurance

All:



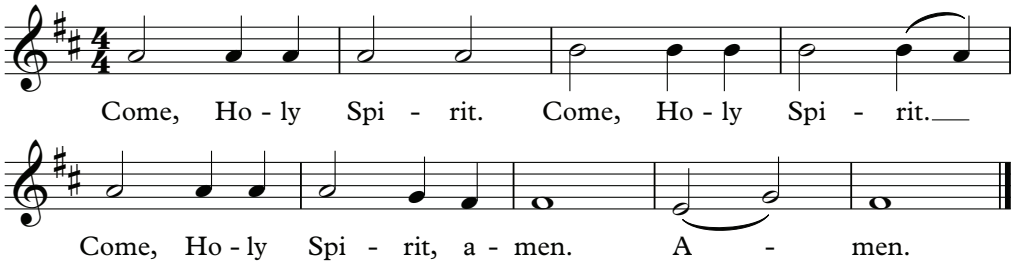
Lessons from the Word

read by Patrick and Rachael Russell ①, Neil Okuley ②

Old Testament Lesson -	Isaiah 62.1-3
Gospel Lesson -	Luke 23.20-27

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

Respond to the Word



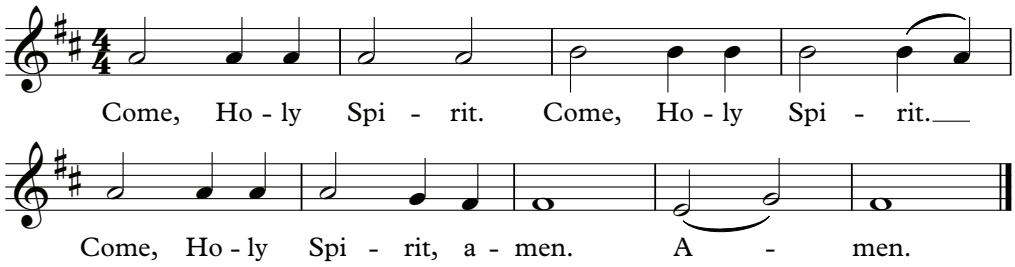
The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker
God, Who Always Leads Us, 2 Corinthians 2:12–17

When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Notes:



Passing the Peace and Preparing the Gifts

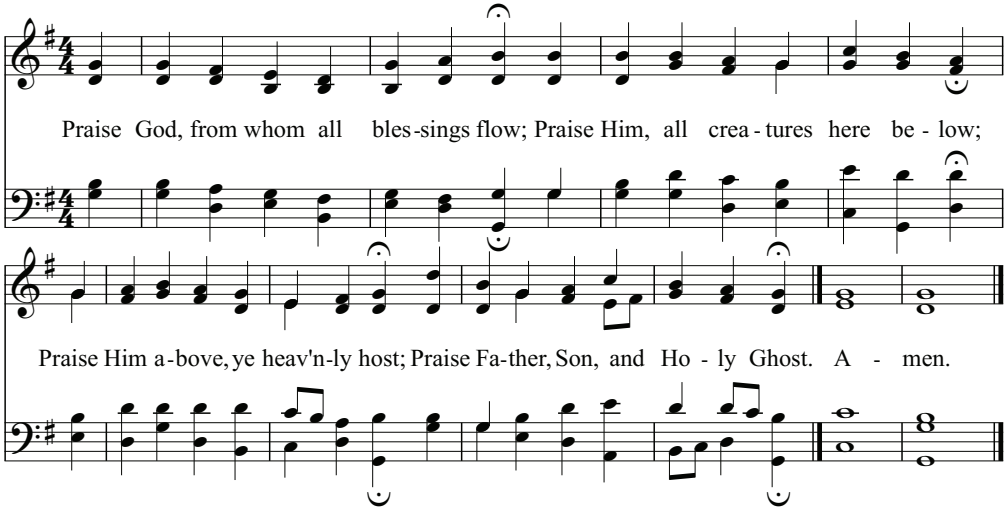
2 Corinthians 13:11-14: Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All: And also with you.

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

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, or you can give online at covenantchicago.org/give, or by texting a donation amount to 84321.



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

The Great Thanksgiving

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 right to give Him thanks and praise.

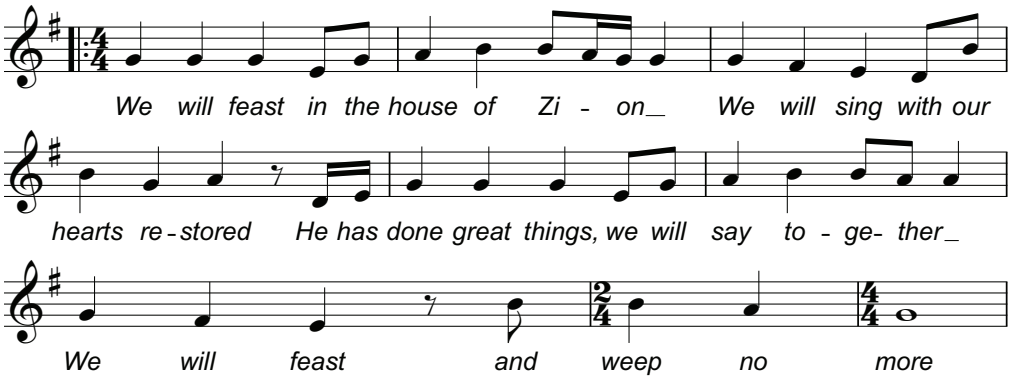
Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

All: In the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent your only Son to be one of us, to redeem us and heal our brokenness.

Leader: By the baptism of his suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension you gave birth to your Church, and delivered us from slavery to sin and death. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim:

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 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.

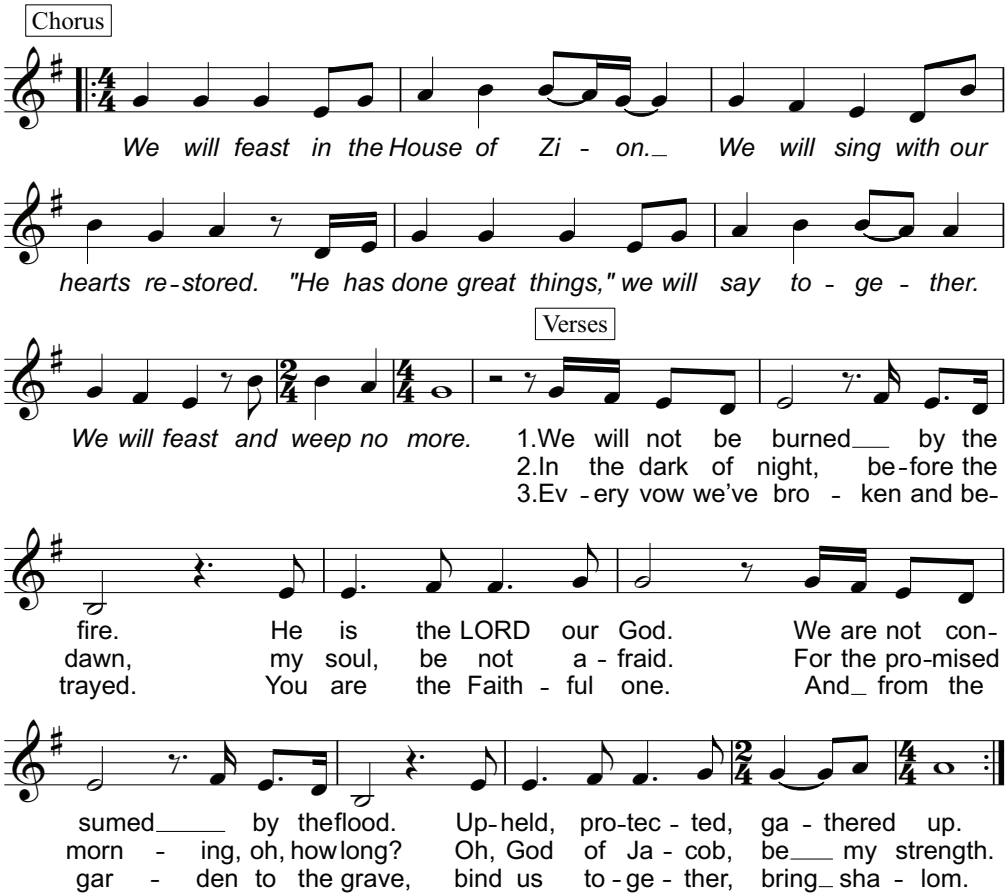
Prayer of belief

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.

Song for Communion, you are welcome to join

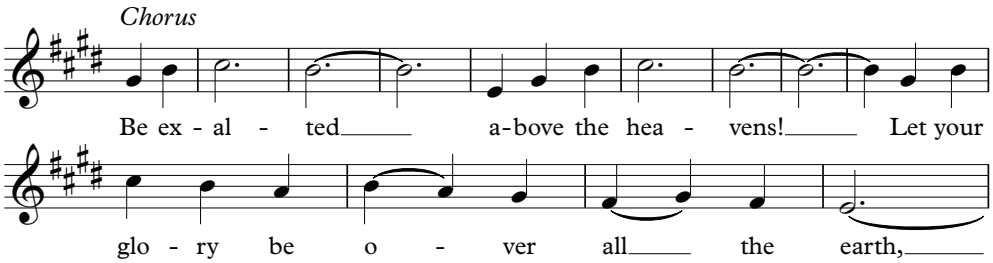


We Will Feast in The House of Zion, by Sandra McCracken, 2015, Westside Anglican Fellowship, Nashville, TN.

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.



In Community

Announcements about Covenant events and opportunities during the coming weeks.

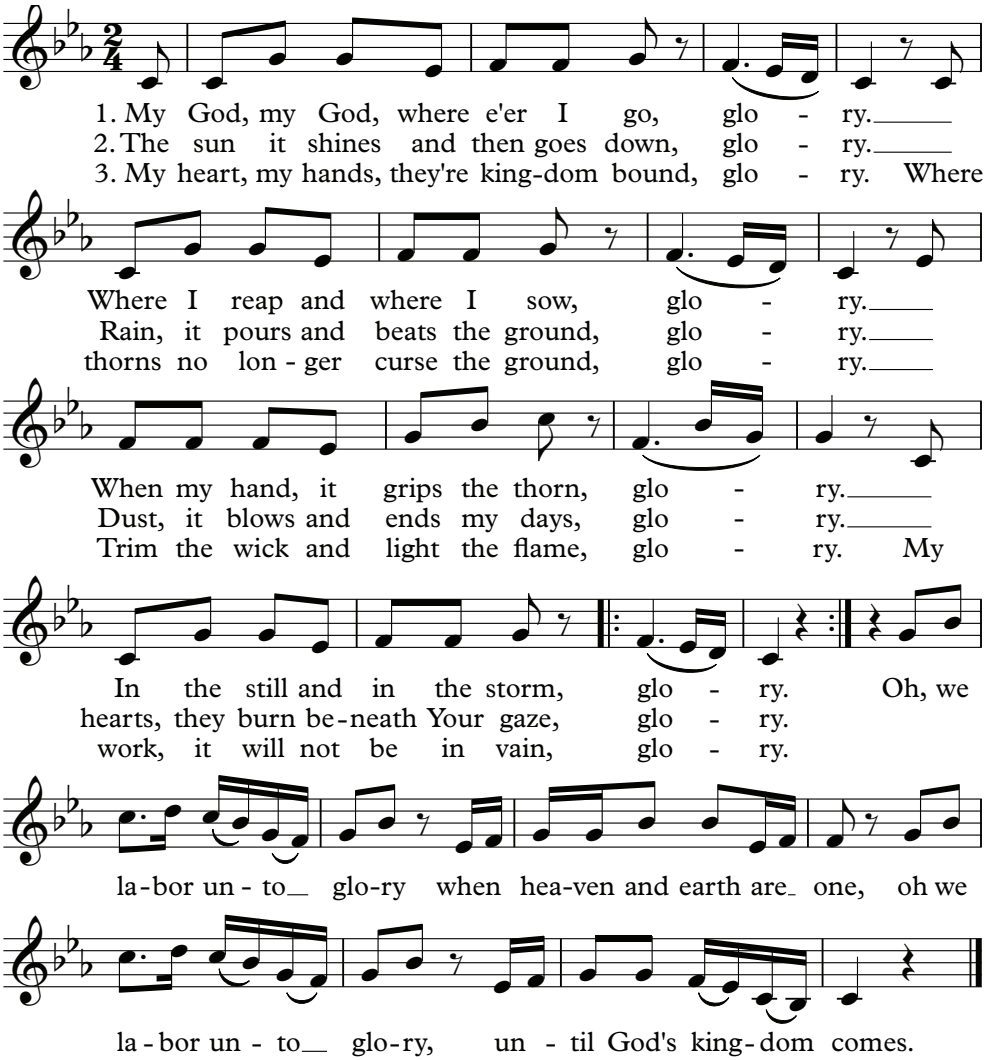
Statement of Faith

Apostle's Creed, 4th century

All: I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ
his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Go With Joy



We Labor Unto Glory, Words and Music, Craig Harris, Plum Creek Church, Castle Rock, CO., 2017

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

1st Service, 9am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, lower level

2nd service, 11:15am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

Common Ground, 10:15am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Sunday School: preK-8th Grade, lower level
- High School Sunday School: Education Building, Youth Room
- Covenant Life Class: Education Building, Library
- Liturgy - Practicing in the Presence of God, lower level, All Saints Room
- Coffee and snacks available in classrooms and the Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

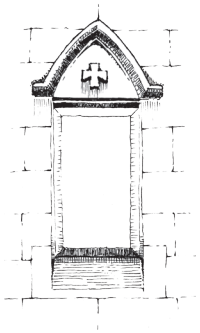
Large Print orders of worship are available in the back of the sanctuary.

New Service Times This Week: Covenant is excited to meet at new service times of 9:00 and 11:15 am. In between the services, we have Common Ground, which includes children's Sunday School, adult education, and a place to gather with each other. You can find additional details about this plan at the Welcome Table or on our website.

Current Mask Requirements: In accordance with the city's mask mandate, Covenant requires masks for everyone over 2 at both services and during Common Ground.

Women's Retreat. *Risky Invitations, Reckless Encounters: Where Jesus Meets Us.* Today is the last day to register! Join us on Saturday, October 16 from 10 am to 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a day of teaching, relaxation and connection with women in our church. Speakers Larissa Bossemeyer and Olivia Stewart Lester will guide us in a discussion about Jesus's encounters with four unexpected people in the Gospels. Additional details and registration is available on our website at covenantchicago.org/events/womens-retreat/. Questions? Contact women@covenantchicago.org.

Covenant Life Class: Join us for our six week Covenant Life Class taught by the pastors during Common Ground starting today. This class is a requirement for those who wish to become members, but it's equally valuable for those who are interested in learning more about the church and the things we care about most, starting with the gospel. The class will meet in the Library at 10:15am.



Liturgy: Practicing in the Presence of God. How does participating in liturgy form us into the people of Christ? Join Paul van der Bijl and Larissa Bossemeyer for a weekly discussion to explore our liturgy, what it teaches us, and how God meets us in it. We'll meet at 10:15 in the All Saints Room on the lower level of the sanctuary. An optional podcast is available on our website: https://covenantchicago.org/events/liturgy/. This week, we'll focus on an introduction to liturgy and the role of singing. Next week, we'll look at recent changes to our Great Thanksgiving, giving and the return of the passing of the peace. Questions? Contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org)

Covenant Musicians: If you are a musician and would like to play and/or sing with the worship team on Sunday mornings, please contact our Worship Director, Paul van der Bijl at pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org.

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

Common Ground Volunteers: Covenant is in need of additional volunteers to help prepare coffee and snacks for Common Ground! Volunteers serve either during the 9:00 or 11:15 service to set up or clean up our coffee service in adult classrooms and the Fellowship Hall. If you'd be interested in helping, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@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.

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).

Solace Ministry: The Solace Ministry is for people who are going through a season of transition, loss or grief. We have a small team of trained lay people who can provide helpful conversation and practical support, as well as reading resources. Just email solace@covenantchicago.org and we will respond promptly.

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 https://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.

The Redemption Church at Covenant: Covenant is happy to be sharing our space with one of our sister churches, The Redemption Church. Their worship service begins in our Sanctuary at 1:30pm.

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, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo, Ryan Von Drehle.

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

Diaconate

Rich Lane, 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:

❑ ↑*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:

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

2012 W. Dickens
Chicago, IL 60647
773.486.9590

covenantchicago.org