

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Ascension Day Olivier Messiaen
Majesty of Christ Praying That His Father Should Glorify Him
Prayer from Christ Ascending toward His Father

Introit :: “Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee” Plainsong
*Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee, who at this blessed feast art pleased to be;
both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail, yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.*

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.[†] Amen.

*Call to Worship

The congregation responds by singing “Alleluia” from the Hymnal, page 587

Leader: *We are met in the presence of God, and we do not meet alone.
With the angels in the highest heaven, with the saints of every age,
and with the church throughout the world, we gather to worship our God.*

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: *We are met in the presence of God, and we do not come empty handed.
With font full of water, with the table set with bread and cup,
with hymnals open and hearts raised, we gather to worship our God.*

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: *We are met in the presence of God, and we do not meet alone.
With the presence of the Risen Christ, and the company of one another,
we take heart, for we do not journey alone. Let us worship our God.*

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 394 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

*Stand as you are able. [†]Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we often remain silent.
You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,
but we are content to live in separation.
You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.
You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by.
Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,
and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson :: Isaiah 25:6–9 Old Testament, page 613

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:[†] as it was in
the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson :: Revelation 21:1–6 New Testament, page 244

Sermon :: “Will We Recognize Each Other in Heaven?” Shannon J. Kershner
Part of the “Big Questions” sermon series

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 374 “O Holy City, Seen of John”

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles' Creed

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.

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "Let the Whole Creation Cry" Jakob Hintze; arr. John Ferguson

*Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!" Heaven and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty King!" Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice. Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word, those to whom the arts belong add voices to the song.
Powers of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw; all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!" Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud
and bold, and let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts; from the north
to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll, "Holy, Holy, Holy One, glory to God alone!"*

*Offertory Response



For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,



with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:



here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.



Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer

Leader: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . . forever singing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

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, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*). The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

The Communion

Communion Anthems

“Sanctus” from *St. Cecilia Mass* Charles Gounod; arr. Dale Grotenhuis
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

“Psalm 23” Franz Schubert; arr. D. G. Mason

Psalm 23 (recited in unison after all have received the cup)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green
pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul;
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for the love which brings us the life of Jesus Christ
and assures us that we belong to the company of all of the faithful in heaven and
on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of your
Holy Spirit, we may continue your work in the world until we meet again in the
glory of your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 65 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

*Benediction and Response

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

Ascension Day O. Messiaen
Outburst of Joy from a Soul before the Glory of Christ

Worship Leaders

9:30 Lucy Forster-Smith, Sally Scott, John Borovicka, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Lucy Forster-Smith, Rachel Letcher, Joe Fong, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Men's Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

OUR “BIG QUESTIONS” SERMON SERIES, which continues today, invites us to explore the questions, topics, and biblical stories that members and friends have told us they would like to hear addressed from the pulpit. Today's question is “Will we recognize each other in heaven?” Next week we will consider the question “What's the deal with the Holy Spirit?”

TODAY FOURTH CHURCH CELEBRATES THE SACRAMENT of the Lord's Supper. All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering, are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace. The congregation is served in the pews by Fourth Church elders and deacons. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers take the bread (which is gluten-free) and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor, and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty compostable glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts flowers outside a Chestnut Street entrance. The cover quote is from “East Coker: V” of T. S. Eliot's *The Four Quartets*.

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Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Pastoral Care

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

Shawn M. Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship and Prayer after Communion are adapted by Shawn Fiedler from *The Book of Common Order*. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to “For the Life that You Have Given” are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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The Fourth Church logo (*front cover*) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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