

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

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, 609
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Invocation

*Hymn 404 “What Is This Place”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, you ask for our hands, that we might use them for your purposes,
but we gave them for a moment and then withdrew them, for the work was hard.
You ask for our mouths to speak out against injustice,
but we gave a whisper, that we might not be accused.
You ask for our lives, that you might work through us,
but we gave only a small part, so we might not get too involved.
Lord, forgive our calculated efforts to serve you
only when it is convenient or in places where it is safe.
Give us courage to live a new life in you,
and empower us through the gift of your Spirit.
We pray this in Christ’s name. Amen.

*Stand as you are able.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: And also with you.

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

Concerns of the Church

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!”*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 97



*Easter Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 589

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Now the Lord is risen indeed.

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

Sermon :: “Will We Recognize Each Other in Heaven?” Matt Helms

Part of the “Big Questions” sermon series

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 376 “When All Is Ended”

*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.

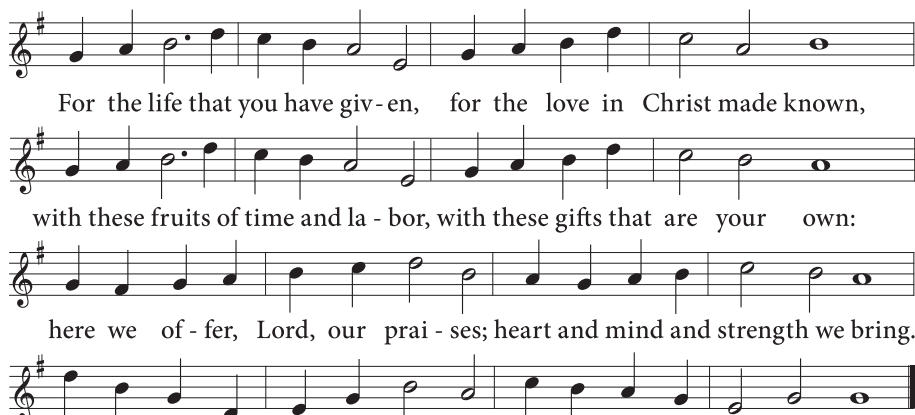
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary :: Ascension Day O. Messiaen

Prayer from Christ Ascending toward His Father

*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*) The Hymnal, page 35

The Communion

Communion Anthem ♪ “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.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Having shared in this meal,
we ask you, O Lord, to grant us
the vision of your kingdom—
forgiveness and new life—
so that we might share your vision,
proclaim your love, and change this world
through our faith in Christ. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 517 “Here, O Our Lord, We See You”

*Benediction and Response

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

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The Lord’s Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast.

The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, H.D. Mitchell, Matt Helms

The Music Today

Men of the Morning 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?”

DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER (lasting seven weeks, spanning the 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday), we will make great use of the word *Alleluia*. Having fasted from the word *Alleluia* during the Season of Lent, our Doxology and Easter Acclamation (holding the place of the Gloria Patri) gives God thanksgiving for the gift of eternal life found in Christ’s resurrection.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Victoria G. Curtiss Mission

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: 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. The Prayer after Communion is adapted from *Iona Abbey Worship Book* (p. 44).

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