



ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

May 8, 2016
Ascension Sunday



A WORD ON WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

“Today is Ascension Day, and that means that it is a day of great joy
for all who believe that Christ rules the world and our lives.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*

A hymn from the early church praises our ascended Lord by reminding us that “He was taken up into glory” (I Timothy 3:16) Therefore, Jesus’ ascension means that we have in heaven a living Savior who actively intercedes for us since He knows firsthand our experience of suffering and temptation (Hebrews 7:25). This should encourage us when we feel too weak to pray and too unworthy to gather with God’s people to worship.

Secondly, Jesus’ ascension bids us to set our hearts and minds “on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).

In his classic work, *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis reminds us that thinking deeply about our ascended Lord and His heaven energizes us for fruitful kingdom service.

He writes: “The Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have begun thinking less of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you get neither.”

THE GLORY OF OUR ASCENDED LORD

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord”Albert Travis
Samuel Metzger, organ

BRASS PRELUDE: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” arr. Michael Burkhardt

CHORAL INTROIT: “God Is Gone Up”Gerald Finzi
Text from Psalm 47

God is gone up with a triumphant shout!
The Lord with sounding trumpets’ melodies,
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise:
Sing praises out, sing praises out,
Unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise!
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors,
They sing, and let the King of Glory enter in.

*The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00)
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP: Hebrews 4:14, 16. Dan G. Burns

Since we have a great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,

**let us approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.**

✦HYMN OF CHRIST’S ASCENSION:

No. 289 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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.”**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord, alleluia, alleluia.
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM (8:15)

*Isaiah Alexander Wells, born April 22, 2015, son of Liz and Brandon Wells
Bradley Kepler Harris, born August 16, 2015, son of Rachel and Calvin Harris
Harrison John McWilliams, born March 5, 2014, son of Maureen and Marcus McWilliams
Stuart Peter McWilliams, born December 28, 2015, son of Maureen and Marcus McWilliams
Oliver Simpson Wilson, born November 18, 2015, son of Tate and Webb Wilson*

PARENTAL VOWS

Do you acknowledge your child’s need of the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God’s covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look to the Lord
Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance
upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that
you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the sacred Scriptures, and
that you will strive, by all the means that God provides you, to bring him up in the
nurture and admonition of the Lord?

CONGREGATIONAL VOW

Do you undertake the responsibility to assist these parents in the Christian nurture
of their child?

SONG OF ENCOURAGEMENT: “Jesus Loves You” JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves you, this we know, for the Bible tells us so;
Little ones to Him belong, you are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!
Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so.**

THE GRACE OF OUR ASCENDED LORD

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, our heavenly Father,
You raised Jesus from death to life and crowned Him Lord of all.
Yet, we confess that we regularly enthrone ourselves as king.
Forgive our rebel hearts and treasonous ways.
For we are those who regularly set our minds on earthly things
instead of things above where Christ is.
May Your Spirit lead us again to boast in the cross
so that we might possess a sincere, pure, and undistracted devotion to our Lord!
For we pray in the name of the One who possesses all authority
in heaven and on earth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦ DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS..... Michael G. Stokke

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "We Are Called" Becki Slagle Mayo

Arise, O church of God!

We are called to be God's people, going forth in love and grace.
We are called to shine in darkness as we journey from this place.
We are called to serve each other, called to be God's hands and feet.
We are called to show compassion, sharing Christ with all we meet.
We are called to love our neighbor, called to help a world in need.
We are called to be disciples, sharing Christ in word and deed.
Arise, O church of God, proclaim in one accord
The story of redeeming love, the message of our Lord.

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE SYMPHONY



1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord,
2. We are a tem - ple, the Spi - rit's dwel - ling place,



Born of His Spi - rit, es - ta - blished by His Word;
Formed in great weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace;



Our cor - ner - stone is Christ a - lone, and strong in
We die a - lone, for on its own each em - ber



Him we stand: O let us live trans - par - ent - ly
los - es fire: Yet joined in one the flame burns on



And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
To give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

THE GOODNESS OF OUR ASCENDED LORD

✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) W. Brian Lewis

A PRAYER FOR OUR 2016 FELLOWS CLASS (8:15)

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON. Ruth 1
(page 222 in pew Bible)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;

**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

SERMON *From Bitterness to Blessing* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 128 "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" DUNDEE

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "Alleluia!" PALESTRINA

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Now Thank We All Our God" arr. Karl-Elert/Bock

✦Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778

The choir leading our worship this morning is comprised of our Chancel Choir, directed by Gabe Statom; our Youth Choir, directed by Ginger Statom, and our Children's Choirs, directed by Terri Theil.

Getting Connected

To find out more about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, contact Pastor Todd Erickson at (901) 531-8895 or todd.erickson@2pc.org.

Sunday Night Worship

We gather each Sunday at 6:00 p.m. for a service of prayer, praise, and teaching from God's Word. Tonight, we continue our semester-long series studying Paul's letter to the Philippians (Philippians 4:10-13). We invite you to worship with us.