



Christ Covenant Church

Worship Service ✝ Ascension Sunday, 2023

✝ The Acclamation

The People standing, the Minister says

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen!*

This is the day the Lord has made; *We will rejoice and be glad in it!*

Christ is seated on His throne; *And His Kingdom is forever!*

O Lord, open now our lips; *And our mouth shall declare Your praise!*

✝ A Hymn of Praise: #306PH O Praise Ye the Lord

✝ The Collect for Purity

Let us pray:

Almighty God, to Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✝ The Law of God

Hear what Almighty God says to us His people:

- 1 You shall have no other gods before me.
- 2 You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
- 3 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- 4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 5 Honor your father and your mother.
- 6 You shall not murder.
- 7 You shall not commit adultery.
- 8 You shall not steal.
- 9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 10 You shall not covet.

Lord have mercy on us and write these laws in our hearts, we pray.

The People may be seated

✝ The Confession of Sin & Declaration of Pardon

The Scripture directs us to acknowledge and confess our sins; and we should not make light of them nor hide them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with a humble, penitent, and obedient heart, in order that we may find forgiveness by His infinite goodness and mercy. Therefore, let us humbly confess our sins to God, our Father.

Gracious Heavenly Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep; we have followed too much the desires of our own hearts; we have offended against your holy laws. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their sins. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared in Christ Jesus our Lord; And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Pray silently confessing particular sins, then the Minister shall say

Now lift up your heads and hear the good news: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Beloved, as Christ's minister and by the authority of His Word, I declare: Your sins are forgiven you! *Amen!*

✠ The Collect of the Day

The Minister says

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Let us bow in prayer

O God, the King of glory, You have exalted Your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to Your throne in heaven: We pray, leave us not alone, but send us the Holy Spirit to comfort us, and exalt us to the same place where our Savior Jesus Christ is gone before; Who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

✠ The Scripture Lessons

The First Lesson: *Acts 1:1-11*

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm: *Psalms 47*

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Epistle: *Ephesians 1:15-23*

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Gospel: *Luke 24:44-53*

The Gospel of our Lord. *Glory be to Jesus Christ.*



✠ Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day #21 (page 9)

✠ The Apostle's Creed

Let us confess the undoubted Christian Faith; Christians what do you believe?

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead: I believe in the Holy Spirit: I believe a holy catholic church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. Amen.

✠ A Hymn of Rejoicing *All rise to sing, and be seated after the hymn*

#170PH Almighty God, Thy Lofty Throne

✠ Sermon: **Celebrating the Ascension** ✠ Acts 1:1-11

✠ A Hymn of Response *All rise to sing, and be seated after the hymn*

All Praise to Christ, the Prince of Peace (page 10)

✠ The Offering

Let us now offer ourselves to God, freely giving our tithes and offerings from hearts filled with gratitude.

All rise after the offering to sing the Doxology (hands raised)

1. Praise God, from Whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Let us pray:

Gracious Heavenly Father, bless these tithes and offerings for the work of the Church, to care for those in need, to promote the spread of the Gospel, and to build up Your Kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. *Amen.*

The congregation may be seated

✠ The Prayers of God's People

Now let us bow before the Lord offering up our prayers before the throne of grace:

Almighty God, we are taught by Your Word to offer prayers and supplications and to give thanks for Your great blessings. We humbly pray that You would receive our prayers. Inspire Your people with the Holy Spirit, and grant that all who confess Your holy Name may agree in the truth of Your holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. *Amen.*

We pray that You will cast down the wicked, leading all nations into the way of righteousness; guide and direct their leaders, especially those who rule in this nation, that your people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace. Grant that our leaders may administer justice, uphold truth, restrain wickedness, and maintain true religion. *Amen.*

Give grace, heavenly Father, to all who are called to minister in the Church, that by their life and teaching, they may proclaim Your true and life-giving Word, and rightly and duly administer Your holy Sacraments. And to all Your people give Your heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation, that with reverent and obedient hearts we may hear and receive Your holy Word, and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. *Amen.*

Prosper, we pray, all those who proclaim the Gospel of your kingdom among the nations, and help us to fulfill your great commission; making disciples of all nations; teaching them to obey all that You have commanded. *Amen.*

We ask You in Your mercy, O Lord, to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. *Amen.*

Silent prayer is offered for special needs, and after, the Minister says,

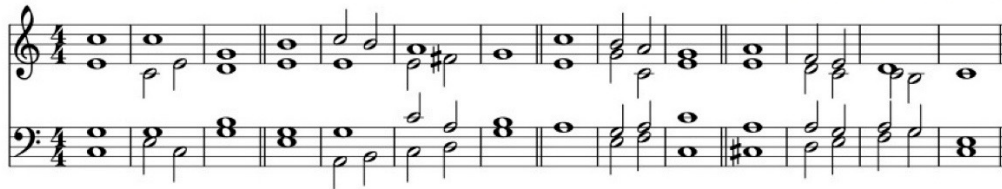
And now let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

All rise to sing the Gloria Patri (hands raised)

Gloria Patri

from Martin Luther



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.** | **A-** | men.

✠ The Lord's Supper

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

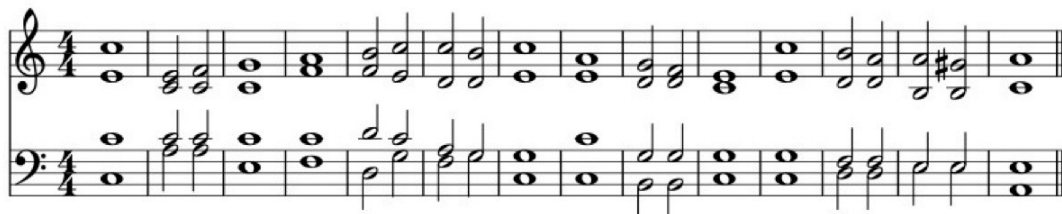
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so!

Truly it is proper, right and good that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks to You, Almighty God, our Everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. After His glorious resurrection He openly appeared to His disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we bless and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and singing...

SANCTUS CHANT 2

BLP



Holy, | ho-ly, | holy, | Lord | God of | power and | might;
Heaven and earth are full | of your | glory,
O | **Lord** | God Most | High.

Please be seated

Beloved people of God, our Lord Jesus Christ now invites you to His Table. He said, “*Do this in remembrance of Me*”, so let us prepare our hearts to eat together and receive His bountiful grace. The Apostle Paul wrote these instructions for celebrating the Lord’s Supper: *For in the night in which He was betrayed, He took Bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.” Likewise, after supper, He took the Cup; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

Let us bow in prayer:

Gracious Heavenly Father, according to the institution of Your dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we now gather to celebrate with joy this memorial meal Your Son commanded; keeping in remembrance His blessed passion and sacrificial death, His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; giving to You most hearty thanks for the many benefits we have in Christ. *Amen.*

All sing a Communion hymn, then come forward to receive the Bread
#204CC At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing (vs. 1e33)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of this Bread. We pray that as we eat of it in faith, the Holy Spirit would unite us more and more to our Savior, Jesus Christ, and to each other in His Body. Help us to rejoice in the Lamb of God Who gave Himself for us! *Amen!*

The Lord be with you! *And also with you!*

The Bread which we break, is it not the communion of the Body of Christ? *Yes, it is!*
The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve you body and soul unto everlasting life. *Amen!*

The people come forward to receive the Cup

Almighty God, we give You thanks for this Cup, the New Covenant in Christ’s blood. We thank and praise You, that through the precious blood of Jesus, we have been washed clean and made righteous in Your sight. Help us by the Holy Spirit, therefore, to walk in newness of life. *Amen!*

The peace of Christ be with you! *And also with you!*

The Cup of blessing, which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?
Yes it is!

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve you body and soul unto everlasting life. *Amen!*

All rise for the Benediction and a hymn of dismissal

✠ The Benediction & Commission

Now may the God of peace Who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every in good work to do His will, working in you what is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen!*

O Jesus Christ Our King

BLP

B. Laud Selby 1853-1918

1. O Je - sus Christ our King, Who in this ho - ly hour, Has
2. In - to this world we go, with words and deeds of love; Til

caused our hearts to sing, and praise Your grace and pow'r.
all the na - tions know God's Son sent from a - bove.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next two lines. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with the first two lines of the hymn appearing on both systems. The score ends with a double bar line.

✠ The Charge & Dismissal

Finally brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might; put on the whole armor of God; fight the good fight of faith....we are dismissed to serve the Lord with gladness! *Amen!*

Announcements ✝ Ascension Sunday

May 21st 2023

✝ Welcome! We are glad you are here to worship the Lord and fellowship with us. May the Holy Spirit bless our time together this **Ascension Sunday, 2023.**

✝ **Ascension Quote:** *At the very end of Revelation, though, John stands on the last of the Bible's mountains to see the heavenly Jerusalem descend. It's a garden city, with a river flowing down its golden boulevards and fruit trees on its banks—but this garden city doesn't stay in the high place. God builds and populates a heavenly city to send it back down to earth. Even Jesus doesn't stay in heaven forever. As we confess in every creed, we believe that he will come again to judge the living and the dead.* **Dr. Peter Leithart**

✝ Laurence, Christa, Laurel, and Melody will be moving the end of this week...pray for safe traveling! We will miss them!

✝ Pentecost is next Sunday, May 28th ~ **wear red!**

Prayer Requests

✝ Remember to pray for one another...Pastor Pawel and the church in Gdansk; Chloe & family; Christine Sass (cancer); Denise McNellis (eye surgery); pray for Robin's daughter, Kara, Michael, and family; Keegan (good health); end of hostilities and peace for Ukraine; Pastor Micah Clouse & Salem Church; Pat's sister, Karen Baker (heart issues); Jeff Smith (restored health); Max & Janine (as they settle in their new home and church); Pat requests prayer for Hope (cancer); Robin (relief from pain and return to health); Sara-Lyn (depression/suicidal thoughts); Covenant School families (lost loved ones); Jeffrey family (preparations for move to Idaho); CCC (sale of building and closing).

Call to Worship ☪ Psalm 24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O you gates!
And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty.
The Lord mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O you gates!
Lift up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

✝ *Let us now enter into worship with these thoughts in our minds and hearts! Amen.*

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day #21

Q. 54. What do you believe concerning the “holy, catholic Church”?

A. That out of the whole human race,¹ from the beginning to the end of the world,² the Son of God,³ by His Spirit and Word,⁴ gathers, defends, and preserves for Himself unto everlasting life a chosen communion⁵ in the unity of the true faith;⁶ and that I am and forever shall remain a living member of this communion.⁷

[1] *Gen. 26:4.*

[2] *Jn. 10:10.*

[3] *Eph. 1:10–13.*

[4] *Rom. 1:16; Isa. 59:21; Rom. 10:14–17; Eph. 5:26.*

[5] *Rom. 8:29–30; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:5–6.*

[6] *Acts 2:46; Ps. 71:18; 1 Cor. 11:26; Jn. 10:28–30; 1 Cor. 1:8–9.*

[7] *1 Jn. 3:21; 1 Jn. 2:19; *Gal. 3:28.*

Q. 55. What do you understand by the “communion of saints”?

A. First, that believers, one and all, as members of the Lord Jesus Christ, are partakers with Him in all His treasures and gifts;¹ second, that each one must feel himself bound to use his gifts readily and cheerfully for the advantage and welfare of other members.²

[1] *1 Jn. 1:3.*

[2] *1 Cor. 12:12–13, 21; 13:5–6; Phil. 2:4–6; *Heb. 3:14.*

Q. 56. What do you believe concerning the “forgiveness of sins”?

That God, for the sake of Christ's satisfaction,¹ will no more remember my sins, nor the sinful nature with which I have to struggle all my life long;² but graciously imputes to me the righteousness of Christ, that I may nevermore come into condemnation.³

[1] *1 Jn. 2:2.*

[2] *2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Rom. 7:24–25; Ps. 103:3, 10–12; Jer. 31:34; Rom. 8:1–4.*

[3] *Jn. 3:18; *Eph. 1:7; *Rom. 4:7–8; 7:18.*

ALL PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE PRINCE OF PEACE

BRIAN L. PENNEY, 2013

REX GLORIOSE
ANDERNACH GESANGBUCH, 1608

1. All praise to Christ, the Prince of Peace, Our
2. He reigns, our Sov' - reign King a - bove, To
3. Au - thor - i - ty and pow'r are His, By
4. Lead on, O King, ex - tend Your reign, O

glor - ious King of an - gel hosts; The
van - quish foes and guard His friends; And
wis - dom rul - ing and by love; He
may Your name on earth be known; And

world and all there - in is His, His
we, His cho - sen ones re - joice, That
leads us in the way of life, Guides
all the world re - joice to sing, Re -

crown is ev' - ry Christ - ian's boast.
His blest king - dom nev - er ends
by His Spir - it from a - bove.
demp - tion's song a - round Your throne.