Lord's Day Worship

A DIVINE SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 21, 2023

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Quiet our minds, O God, and gladden our hearts; that, as we come together to worship you, we may, by your Spirit, be drawn near to your presence and find that this place is indeed the very gate of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

GOD CALLS US

CALL TO WORSHIP Acts 1:9-11

†HYMN OF PRAISE

†SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF PRAISE

Pastor: We are called together to worship in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: Amen!

The LORD be with you!

Ruth 2:4 And also with you!

Return, O my soul, to your rest;

For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. Ps 116:7

For we have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God.

When the Christ who is our life appears, we also will appear with him in glory. Alleluia!

Let us pray together:

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before us: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen!

GOD CLEANSES US

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

Let us hold fast our confession.

Let us therefore with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

That we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father; I acknowledge and confess before you my sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all my shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often I have sinned in wandering from your way, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

+Silent Prayer of Confession +

But O Lord, have mercy on me, for I am ashamed and sorry for all the ways I have displeased you. Teach me to hate my errors, cleanse me from my secret faults, and forgive my sins for the sake of vour dear Son. Amen.

†DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Now lift up your heads, and hear these words of comfort and good news from the Scriptures...

> "Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord has set up."

> > Hebrews 8:1-2

Pastor: Our heavenly Father, in his great mercy, has given his only Son to die for you, and for his sake forgives you all your sins; wherefore as Christ's minister and by his authority, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

All praise be Thine, O Risen Lord, from death to endless life restored:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

To Father, Son, and Spirit be all power and praise eternally! Christ is risen! O praise Him! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOD CONVERSES WITH US

OLD TESTAM	ENT READING				Psalm 24
Pastor:	The earth is the	LORD'S and the	fullness ther	reof.	

The world and those who dwell therein,

For he has founded it upon the seas,

And established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

Who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

He will receive blessing from the LORD

And righteousness from the God of his salvation!

Such is the generation of those who seek him,

Who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

†HYMN OF PRAISE

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen!

SERMON TEXT. Psalm 24 PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

A Sermon for Ascension Sunday

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

†COMMUNION HYMN

"At the Name of Jesus"...... Selection 163

†The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you! People: And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

It is indeed right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks unto you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, in union with the saints who have gone before us and the whole church on earth, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and All: earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you,

O Lord Most High!

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Prayer of Preparation & Faith

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your steadfast love, which endures forever. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Father, to partake of the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ, that we may grow into his likeness, and evermore abide in union with him, and he with us. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Bread

Pastor: Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Wine

Pastor: Let us confess the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, All:

Christ will come again!

GOD COMMISSIONS US

†Prayer of Dedication

All gracious God, who of your infinite love gave your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and rise again for our justification, and have made us partakers of your divine nature through the gift of the Holy Spirit; accept the fruits of our labors which we now present to you in this offering and also our very selves as we stand before you; and hear us as we pray as your Son taught us: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!

†Hymn of Praise

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"...... Selection 295

†Pastoral Benediction

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his

face toward you and give you peace.

People: Amen!

†Those who are able are invited to stand

Psalm 24

A Psalm of David

- [1] The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.
- for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
- [3] Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- [4] He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
- He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- [6] Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah
- [7] Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- [8] Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!
- [9] Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- [10] Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah



Ascension Sunday

May 21, 2023

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