



# Lord's Day Service

*At Church of the King on April 26th, 2026*

*The 3rd Sunday after Easter*

*Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15*

*Call to Worship: Where God Calls Us Into His Presence*

*"Give to Jehovah the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him.  
Oh, worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness!" 1 Chronicles 16:29*

**Hear Today's Call to Worship from God's Word:** [congregation standing]

*Sing, O heavens, for Jehovah has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For Jehovah has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel. Thus says Jehovah, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: "I am Jehovah, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; Isaiah 44:23-24*

**Come, Worship Jehovah in Spirit and in Truth**

**God's People Respond With a Hymn of Adoration:** (based on Psalm 145:10)

O worship the King all glorious above,	O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
O gratefully sing his power and His love.	Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,	His chariot of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.	And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

**Salutation and Response:** [based on Matthew 28:19, Ruth 2:4 and Psalm 29:4,11]

*In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit*

**Amen!**

*Jehovah be with you!*

**And also with you!**

*The voice of Jehovah is strong*

**The voice of Jehovah is majestic!**

*Jehovah sits enthroned as king forever,*

[men] **Jehovah gives strength to his people!**

[women] **Jehovah blesses His people with peace!**

# Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us In Christ

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

## The Call For Confession From God's Word:

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." James 4:8-10

## God's People sing our Hymn of Confession:

### I Waited for the LORD, Psalm 40:1-11

1. <sup>1</sup>I wait - ed for the LORD; He stooped and heard my cry.  
2. Man - y will see with awe, And so will trust the LORD.  
3. <sup>6</sup>You want no of - fer - ing, Nor ask a sac - ri - fice,  
4. <sup>8</sup>"To do Your will, O God, To me is my de - light.  
5. <sup>10</sup>I hid not in my heart Your truth and sav - ing help;

<sup>2</sup>He brought me from the pit, Out of the dun - geon mire,  
<sup>4</sup>Blest he who trusts in GOD And turns not to false men.  
*But You have giv - en me A read - y ear to hear.*  
Your law is part of me, Deep in my heart, O God."  
Your faith - ful - ness I preached In con - gre - ga - tion great.

My feet set on a rock, My foot - steps made se - cure.  
<sup>5</sup>You have worked won - ders, LORD; No one com - pares to You!  
*You ask no of - frings burnt, Nor sac - ri - fice for sin.*  
<sup>9</sup>In con - gre - ga - tion great I told Your right - eous - ness.  
<sup>11</sup>Do not with - hold from me Your ten - der mer - cies, LORD

<sup>3</sup>My lips He gave a song, A song to praise our God.  
Should I de - clare each one, Their num - ber is too great.  
<sup>7</sup>So I say, "Here I come, As in the scroll in - scribed.  
You know, LORD, I spoke out, I did not close my lips.  
Let Your un - fail - ing love For ev - er keep me safe.

**Silent Confession:** *"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15*

Those who are willing and able are invited to kneel for our time of confession.

### **Corporate Prayer of Confession:**

**Lord God our Savior, who has performed the mercy promised to our fathers, and remembered your holy covenant made in ages past, we ask you to forgive our sins and deliver us from our enemies. Through your tender mercies, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us, even we who have sat in darkness and the shadow of death, give us your light to guide our feet into the way of peace. Grant that we might serve Christ our Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our lives. For we pray in the name of our only Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN!**

### **Arise and Receive the Assurance of Pardon & Forgiveness:**

*"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And Jehovah has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken." Isaiah 53:4-8*

As an officer in Christ's Church, ministering in His name, I now proclaim to us the forgiveness of sins, and declare, according to the Scriptures, that having truly trusted in Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, that our sins are not only forgiven on earth, but also in heaven throughout eternity.

I must also state to any here, who are not truly confessing sin and have no desire to live in obedience to Jesus Christ: Your sins are held against you in the Holy Judgement of God. You cannot be forgiven, unless you repent and seek forgiveness through the sacrifice and obedience of Jesus Christ. This I declare in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Come, Let us worship the Lord!**

### **Come Bless the Father:**

Come bless the Fath - er, all you ser - vants of the Son, who stand by the Spir - it in the  
House of the Lord. Lift up your hands to the Ho - ly Place and bless your God.  
May the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ bless you from Zi - on, He Who made hea - ven and earth.

#### **Lift up your hearts!**

We lift them up un - to the Lord!

#### **Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!**

It is pro - per and right to do so.

Truly it is proper and right that we should at all times and in all places give praise to you O LORD. And so, with the angels and all the company of heaven and with the Church, as she gathers throughout the world this day, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you & singing:

# God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks:

[Congregation standing]

"Stand up and bless Jehovah your God Forever and ever!" "Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!" Nehemiah 9:5b

## From Heav'n O Praise the LORD

Psalm 148

ST. CATHERINE'S (6 6. 6 6. 4 4 4 4. rep.)  
Horatio R. Palmer, 1834-1907

The Book of Psalms for Singing, 1973

1. From heav'n O praise the LORD; Ye heights, His glo - ry raise.  
LORD;  
2. Yea, let them glo - rious make Je - ho - vah's match - less name;  
3. From earth O praise the LORD, Ye deeps and all be - low;  
4. Let all the peo - ple praise, And kings of ev - 'ry land;  
5. Je - ho - vah's name be praised A - bove the earth and sky.

2 All an - gels, praise ac - cord; Let all His host give praise.  
For when the word He spake They in - to be - ing came.  
Wild winds that do His word, Ye clouds, fire, hail, and snow;  
Let all their voic - es raise Who judge and give com - mand.  
14 For He His saints has raised And set their power on high.

1 Praise Him on high, Sun, moon, and star,  
2 And from that place Where fixed they be,  
3 Ye moun - tains high, Ye ce - dars tall,  
4 By young and old, By maid and youth,  
Him praise ac - cord, O Is - rael's race,

Sun, moon, and star, 4 Ye heav'ns a - far, And cloud - y sky.  
Where fixed they be, By His de - cree They can - not pass.  
Ye ce - dars tall, 10 Beasts great and small, And birds that fly.  
By maid and youth, 11 His name in truth Should be ex - tolled.  
O Is - rael's race, Near to His grace. Praise ye the LORD.

## *Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People*

*"You are My witnesses," says Jehovah, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am Jehovah, And besides Me there is no savior. Isaiah 43:10-11*

**THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD: Genesis 1:1 – 2:2**

**2 pages**

### **The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth**

[1] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

**And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.**

God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

**Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.**

And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

**Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.**

And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

**Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.**

And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day.

**Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.**

Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

**Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.**

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

**Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so.**

And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

**Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.**

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

**[2:1] Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.**

## **God's People Respond With The Singing Of:**

**Psalm 19**

**2 pages** [congregation standing]

*"Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!  
Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!" Psalm 105:1,2*

# Psalm 19

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

Am Am/G F (G A B C D) E

1 The heav - ens de - clare the glo - ry of God; And the firm - a - ment shows His hand - i - work.

Am C Dm E

2 Day un - to day ut - ters speech, And night un - to night re - veals know - ledge.

Am G F Dm E

3 There is no speech nor lan - guage Where their voice is not heard.

Am Am/G F (G A B C D) E

4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.

Am E5/B C D5 E

5 In them He has set a ta - ber - na - cle for the sun,

A5 C- D5 E

6 Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his cham - ber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

Am Am/G F (G A B C D) E

7 Its ris - ing is from one end of heav'n, And its cir - cuit to the oth - er end;

Am E5/B C D5 E

8 And there is no - thing hid - den from its heat.

27 A5

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, con - vert - ing the soul;  
 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, re - joic - ing the heart;  
 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, endur - ing for - ev - er;

28

The testimony of the LORD is sure, mak - ing wise the simple;  
 The commandment of the LORD is pure, en - light - en - ing the eyes;  
 The judgments of the LORD are true and right - eous al - to - gether.

29 Am G F Dm E Am G B C

10 More to be de - sired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;

32 E5 Am G F Dm E

Sweet - er al - so than hon - ey and the hon - ey - comb.

35 Am Am G Am F G Asus9 Am

11 More - o - ver by them Your ser - vant is warned,

39 C G F B7 F E

And in keep - ing them there is great re - ward.

43 A5

12 Who can under - stand his er - rors?  
 13 Keep back Your servant also from pre - sump - tuous sins;  
 Then I shall be blame - less,

44

Cleanse me from sec - ret faults.  
 Let them not have do - min - ion o - ver me,  
 And I shall be inno - cent of great trans - gression.

45 Am Am G Am F G Asus9 Am

14 Let the words of my mouth and the med - i - ta - tion of my heart

49 C G F B7 F E

Be ac - cept - a - ble in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Re - deem - er.

**God Speaks to Us Through His Word:** Scripture, Prayer for Illumination, and Sermon

*"Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Jehovah, and teach out of Your law." Psalm 94:12*

**"Fight the Good Fight"**

From **Pastor Paul Liberati**

Based on **1Timothy 6:11-16**

1 Timothy 6:11-16 (NKJV)

**11** But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, **15** which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

**Notes**

# God's People Sing a Hymn of Response:

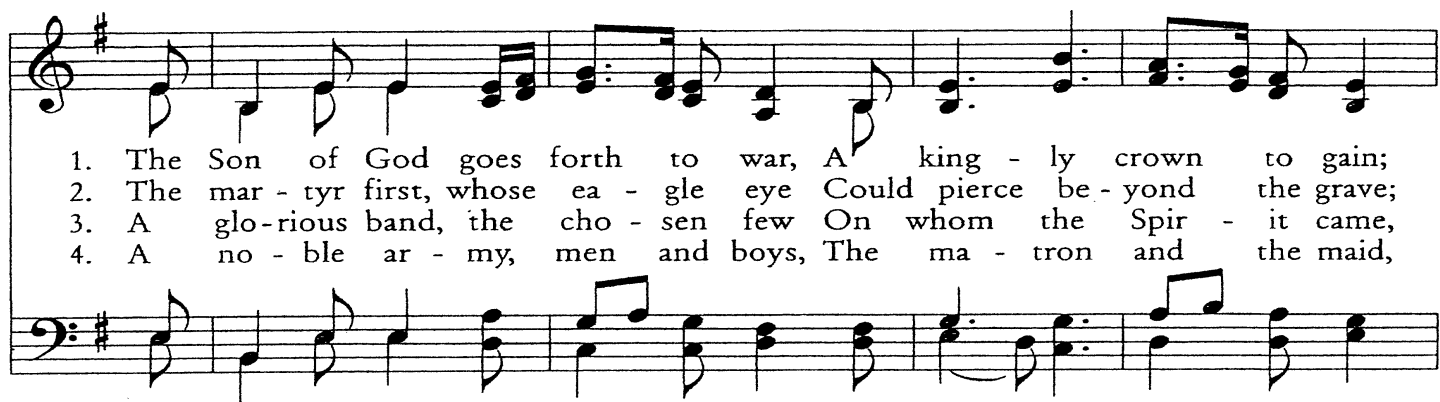
[congregation standing]

*"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High" Psalm 92:1*

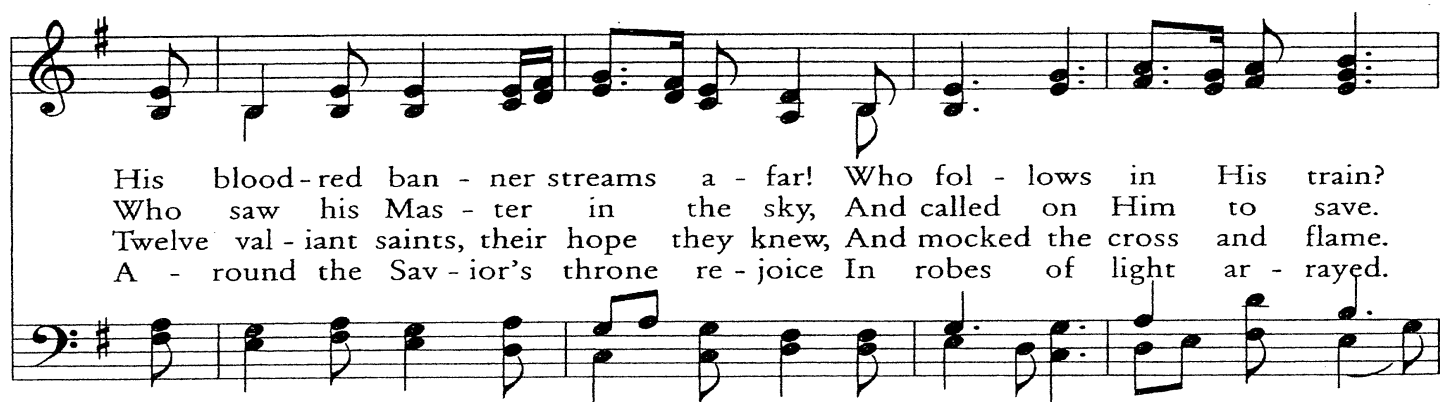
## The Son of God Goes Forth to War

GREYOAKS (C.M.D.)  
Gregory D. Wilbur, 1994

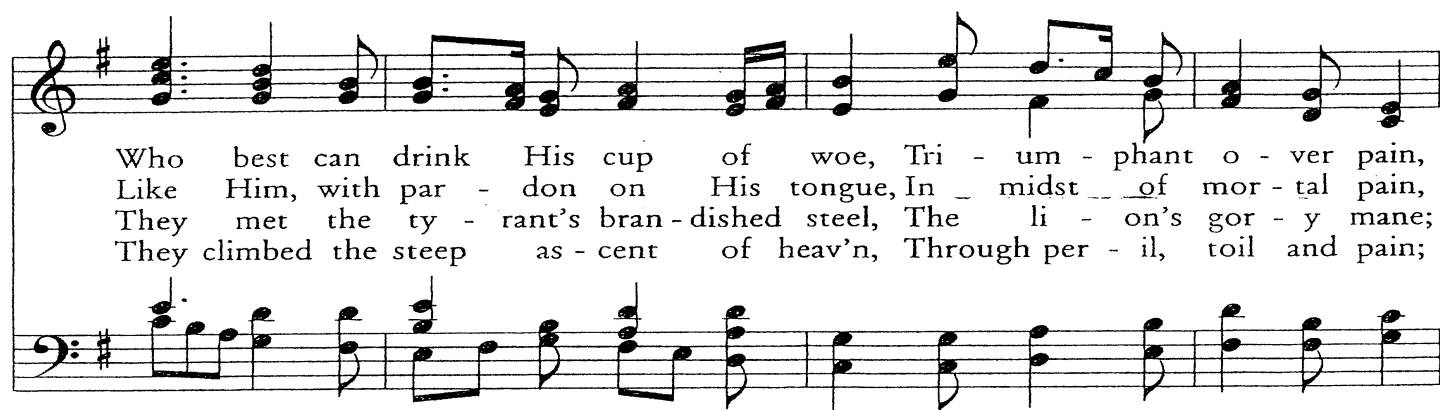
Reginald Heber, 1827



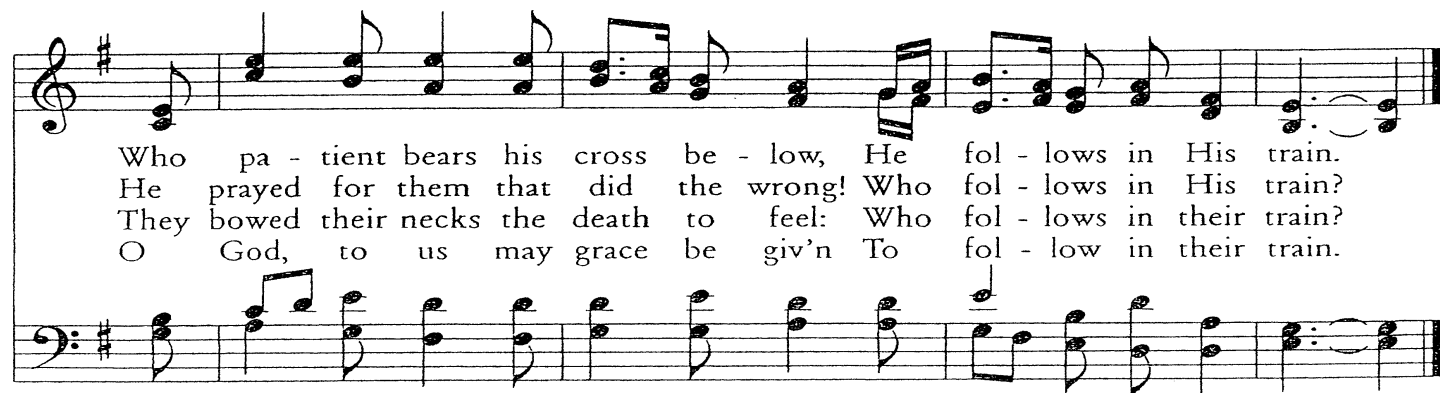
1. The Son of God goes forth to war, A king - ly crown to gain;  
2. The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye Could pierce be - yond the grave;  
3. A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few On whom the Spir - it came,  
4. A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, The ma - tron and the maid,



His blood - red ban - ner streams a - far! Who fol - lows in His train?  
Who saw his Mas - ter in the sky, And called on Him to save.  
Twelve val - iant saints, their hope they knew, And mocked the cross and flame.  
A - round the Sav - ior's throne re - joice In robes of light ar - rayed.



Who best can drink His cup of woe, Tri - um - phant o - ver pain,  
Like Him, with par - don on His tongue, In \_ midst \_ of mor - tal pain,  
They met the ty - rant's bran - dished steel, The li - on's gor - y mane;  
They climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n, Through per - il, toil and pain;



Who pa - tient bears his cross be - low, He fol - lows in His train.  
He prayed for them that did the wrong! Who fol - lows in His train?  
They bowed their necks the death to feel: Who fol - lows in their train?  
O God, to us may grace be giv'n To fol - low in their train.

**God Receives our Tithes and Gifts as a Tribute Offering:** [read in unison]

Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, *and* they brought Jehovah's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, *and* brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who *made* an offering of gold to Jehovah.

Exodus 35:21-22

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings:**

**With the singing of Psalm 30:11-12 & the Doxology**

*Words composed by Brenda Fisher*

1: Oh Lord you have now turned for me,      2: I will sing praises from my soul;  
My grief into a dance to Thee.                      To not be silent is my goal.  
In sackcloth I'm no longer dressed;              Oh Lord my God to You I raise,  
With gladness you have made me blessed.      Thanks never ending; You I praise!

3: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**The Great Prayer, Concluding with the Lord's Prayer:**

Viktor Choban

Our Father,  
Which 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 the evil one,  
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever: AMEN

[Matthew 6:9-13]

*Communion: Where God Communes With His People*

**Preparation for Communion:**

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and are not under discipline from Christ's Church are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord, our God will call.

# Our Confession of Faith - The Apostle's Creed [sung with music by Amber Bartels]

Piano

The image shows a piano accompaniment for a vocal piece. It consists of nine systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady accompaniment.

I be - lieve in God the Fa - ther Al - migh - ty, Ma - ker of hea - ven and earth;

8  
And in Je - sus Christ, His on - ly be - got - ten Son, our Lord; Who was con - ceived by the

16  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, born of the vir - gin Ma - ry, Suf - fered un - der Pon - tius

25  
Pi - late, was cru - ci - fied, dead and bur - ied; He de - scend - ed in - to

35  
hell, the third day He rose a - gain from the dead; He as - cend - ed in - to

43  
heav - en, and sit - teth at the right hand of God the Fath - er Al - migh - ty; From

52  
thence He shall come to judge the liv - ing and the dead. I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

60  
I be - lieve a ho - ly cath - olic Church, the com - mun - ion of saints, the for - give - ness of sins; the

70  
re - sur - rec - tion of the bo - dy, and the life ev - er - last - ing. A - men.

**THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE:** (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

***A Word of Encouragement -- Giving of Thanks -- Breaking of the Bread***  
**God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks and Celebration:**

(Sung as a representative of each family comes forward to receive their bread and wine)

**How Sweet and Awful Is the Place**

ST. COLUMBA (C.M.)  
Old Irish hymn melody

Isaac Watts, *Hymns and Sacred Songs*, 1707

1. How sweet and awful is the place  
2. While all our hearts and all our songs  
3. "Why was I made to hear Thy voice,  
4. 'Twas the same love that spread the feast  
5. Pit - y the na - tions, O our God!  
6. We long to see Thy church - es full,

With Christ with - in the doors, While ev - er - last - ing  
Join to ad - mire the feast, Each of us cry, with  
And en - ter while there's room, When - thou - sands make a  
That sweet - ly drew us in; Else we had still re -  
Con - strain the earth to come; Send Thy vic - to - rious  
That all the cho - sen race May with one voice and

love dis - plays The choic - est of her stores!  
thank - ful tongues, "Lord, why was I a guest?  
wretch - ed choice, And rath - er starve than come?"  
fused to taste, And per - ished in our sin.  
Word a - broad, And bring the stran - gers home.  
heart and soul, Sing Thy re - deem - ing grace.

**Feasting at the Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of a new week.**  
***Partaking of the Bread Together -- Giving Thanks -- Partaking of the Wine***

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26

# Commissioning: Where God Sends Out His People

"All Your works shall praise You, O Jehovah, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the Glory of Your Kingdom, and talk of Your Power, to make known to the sons of men His Mighty Acts, And the Glorious Majesty of His Kingdom. Your Kingdom is an Everlasting Kingdom, And Your Dominion endures throughout all generations." Psalm 145:10-13

## God's People Prepare To Be Sent Forth:

### I Know That My Redeemer Lives

I know that my Re - deem - er lives, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives to crush the fiends of hell, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives to bless me with His love, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives, all glo - ry to His name, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

6  
What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives, my ev - er - last - ing head, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives and doth with - in me dwell, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives to plead for me a - bove, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
He lives, my Je - sus, still the same, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

11  
Shout on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah!

16  
The dead's a - live and the lost is found, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah!

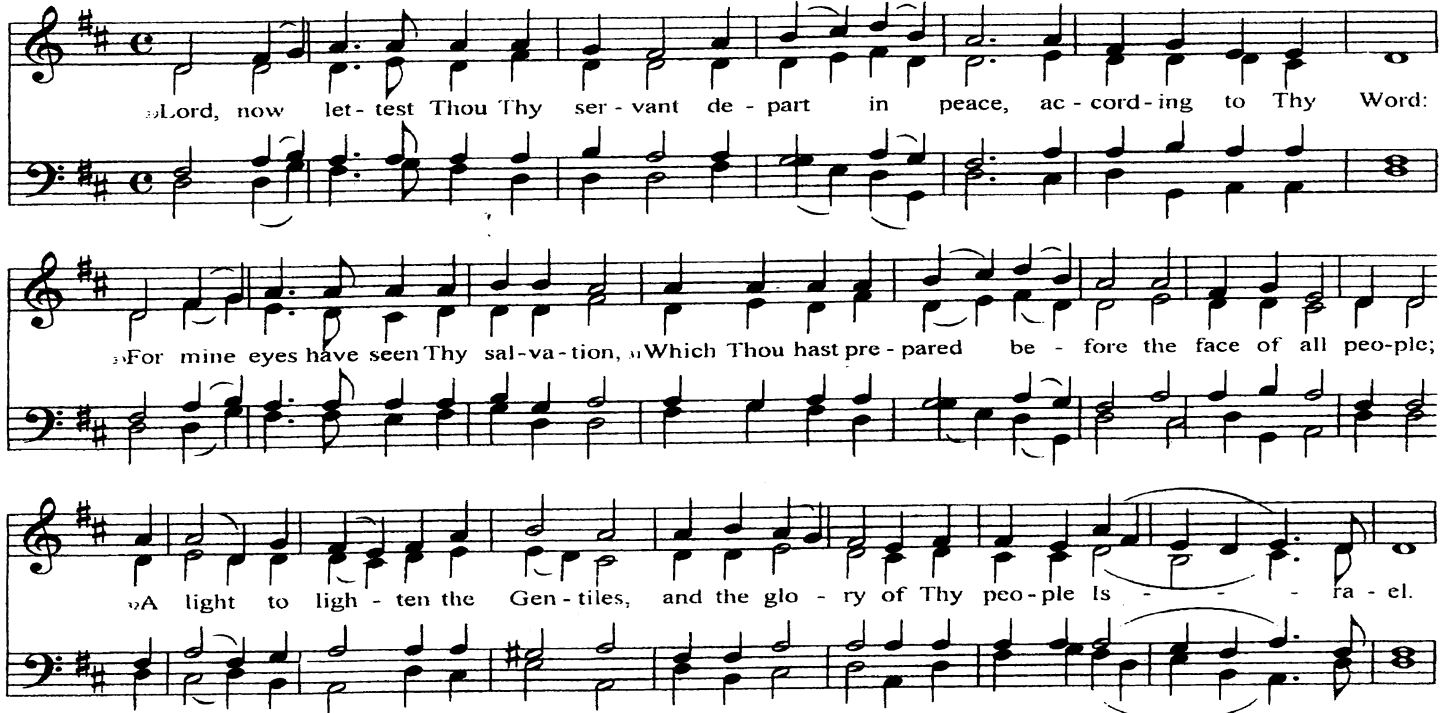
## God Blesses His People – The Benediction:

[congregation standing]

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” 2 Cor 13:14

## God’s People Depart to Serve the Risen & Reigning Savior by Singing:

### Simeon’s Prayer & the Gloria Patri



Lord, now let-test Thou Thy ser-vant de-part in peace, ac-cord-ing to Thy Word:  
For mine eyes have seen Thy sal-va-tion, Which Thou hast pre-pared be-fore the face of all peo-ple;  
A light to ligh-ten the Gen-tiles, and the glo-ry of Thy peo-ple Is - fa - el.

**With Lifted Hands: 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**

### The Heidelberg Catechism – Lord’s Day 17

45. What benefit do we receive from the “resurrection” of Christ?

**First, by His resurrection He has overcome death, that He might make us partakers of the righteousness which He has obtained for us by His death.**<sup>1</sup> **Second, by His power we are also now raised up to a new life.**<sup>2</sup> **Third, the resurrection of Christ is to us a sure pledge of our blessed resurrection.**<sup>3</sup> [1] 1 Cor. 15:15,17, 54–55. Rom. 4:25; 1 Pet. 1:3–4, 21.

[2] Rom. 6:4; Col. 3:1–4; Eph. 2:5. [3] 1 Cor. 15:12; Rom. 8:11; \*1 Cor. 15:20–21.

46. What do you understand by the words “He ascended into heaven”?

**That Christ, in the sight of His disciples, was taken up from the earth into heaven,**<sup>1</sup> **and continues there in our behalf**<sup>2</sup> **until He shall come again to judge the living and the dead.**<sup>3</sup> [1] Acts 1:9; Matt. 26:64; Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:51.

[2] Heb. 4:14; 7:24–25; 9:11; Rom. 8:34. Eph. 4:10. [3] Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:30; \*Acts 3:20–21.

47. But is not Christ with us even unto the end of the world, as He has promised?<sup>1</sup>

**Christ is true man and true God. According to His human nature He is now not on earth,**<sup>2</sup> **but according to His Godhead, majesty, grace, and Spirit, He is at no time absent from us.**<sup>3</sup> [1] Matt. 28:20.

[2] Matt. 26:11; Jn. 16:28; 17:11. [3] Jn. 14:17–18; 16:13; Eph. 4:8; Matt. 18:20; \*Heb. 8:4.

48. But are not, in this way, the two natures in Christ separated from one another, if the manhood is not wherever the Godhead is? **Not at all, for since the Godhead is incomprehensible and everywhere present,**<sup>1</sup> **it must follow that the same is not limited with the human nature He assumed, and yet remains personally united to it.**<sup>2</sup>

[1] Acts 7:49; Jer. 23:24. [2] Col. 2:9; Jn. 3:13; 11:15; Matt. 28:6; \*Jn. 1:48.

**J. C. Ryle, Expository Thoughts on John, vol. 1 (New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1879), 2–4.**

**John 1:1-5:** No doubt there are heights and depths in [these five verses] which are far beyond man's understanding. And yet there are plain lessons in it, which every Christian would do well to treasure up in his mind.

1. We learn, firstly, that our Lord Jesus Christ is eternal. St. John tells us that "in the beginning was the Word." He did not begin to exist when the heavens and the earth were made. Much less did He begin to exist when the Gospel was brought into the world. He had glory with the Father "before the world was." (John 17:5.) He was existing when matter was first created, and before time began. He was "before all things." (Col. 1:17.) He was from all eternity.

2. We learn, secondly, that our Lord Jesus Christ is a Person distinct from God the Father, and yet one with Him. St. John tells us that "the Word was with God." The Father and the Word, though two persons, are joined by an ineffable union. Where God the Father was from all eternity, there also was the Word, even God the Son,—their glory equal, their majesty co-eternal, and yet their Godhead one. This is a great mystery! Happy is he who can receive it as a little child, without attempting to explain it.

3. We learn, thirdly, that the Lord Jesus Christ is very God. St. John tells us that "the Word was God." He is not merely a created angel, or a being inferior to God the Father, and invested by Him with power to redeem sinners. He is nothing less than perfect God,—equal to the Father as touching His Godhead,—God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds.

4. We learn, fourthly, that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things. St. John tells us that "by Him were all things made, and without Him was not any thing made that was made." So far from being a creature of God, as some heretics have falsely asserted, He is the Being who made the worlds and all that they contain. "He commanded and they were created." (Psalm 40:8.)

5. We learn, lastly, that the Lord Jesus Christ is the source of all spiritual life and light. St. John tells us, that "in Him was life, and the life was the light of men." He is the eternal fountain, from which alone the sons of men have ever derived life. Whatever spiritual life and light Adam and Eve possessed before the fall, was from Christ. Whatever deliverance from sin and spiritual death any child of Adam has ever enjoyed since the fall, whatever light of conscience or understanding any one has obtained, all has flowed from Christ. The vast majority of mankind in every age have refused to know Him, have forgotten the fall, and their own need of a Saviour. The light has been constantly shining "in darkness." The most have "not comprehended the light." But if any men and women out of the countless millions of mankind have ever had spiritual life and light, they have owed all to Christ.

Such is a brief summary of the leading lessons which these wonderful verses appear to contain. There is much in them, without controversy, which is above our reason; but there is nothing contrary to it. There is much that we cannot explain, and must be content humbly to believe. Let us however never forget that there are plain practical consequences flowing from the passage, which we can never grasp too firmly, or know too well.