



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION SUNDAY MAY 24TH, 2020

Call to Worship

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

66 Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!

☩ **VERSICLE** ☩ Lord, open our lips.
☩ **RESPONSE** ☩ **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
☩ Alleluia! Christ the Lord ascendedeth into heaven.
☩ **Come let us adore Him. Alleluia!**

Salutation

PHILIPPIANS 1

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise

#370 A HYMN OF GLORY

1. A hymn of glo-ry let us sing; new songs through-out the world shall
2. The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
3. To whom the an - gels, draw-ing nigh: "Why stand and gaze up - on the
4. "A - gain shall you be - hold him so as you to - day have seen him

ring: *Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!* Christ, by a road be - fore un -
stand; *Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!* and with his fol - low - ers they
sky?" *Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!* "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
go, *Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!* in glo - rious pomp as - cend - ing

trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see Je - sus' re - splen - dent ma - jes - ty. *Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -*
say. "This is his no - ble tri - umph day.
high, up to the por - tals of the sky."

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Venerable Bede, 673-735
tr. by Benjamin Webb, 1854, alt.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M.al.
Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623
Tune from the *English Hymnal* by permission of Oxford University Press

GOD CLEANSSES US

Reading of God's Law

☩ VERSICLE
☩ RESPONSE

☩ Hear now the covenant of your God, which He has commanded you to keep saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." You shall have no other gods before Me.

☩ **You shall not make for yourself an idol.**

☩ You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

☩ **Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

☩ Honor your father and your mother.

☩ **You shall not murder.**

☩ You shall not commit adultery.

☩ **You shall not steal**

☩ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

☩ **You shall not covet.**

☩ Have you fully obeyed the LORD in all that He has commanded? Have you loved the LORD with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself?

☩ **No, but we have sinned in thought, in word, and in deed.**

☩ Then confess your sins to the LORD, for with Him there is mercy and abundant redemption.

Confession of Sin

IN UNISON

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against Your holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done,
and there is no health in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare those, O God, who confess their faults, restore those who are penitent,
according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O merciful Father, for His sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Words of Comfort

THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Hymn of Assurance

#375 ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall,
 2. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of your God, who from his al - tar call,
 3. Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran-somed of the fall,
 4. Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall,

let an - gels pros-trate fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem,
 who from his al - tar call; ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's rod,
 ye ran - somed of the fall, hail him who saves you by his grace,
 the worm-wood and the gall, go, spread your tro - phies at his feet,

Refrain

and crown him, crown him,
 and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him,
 crown

crown him, crown him, and crown him Lord of all.
 him and crown him

5. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
 on this terrestrial ball,
 on this terrestrial ball,
 to him all majesty ascribe,
(Refrain)
6. O that with yonder sacred throng
 we at his feet may fall,
 we at his feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song,
(Refrain)

St. 1-5, Edward Perronet, 1779; alt.
 St. 6, John Rippon, 1787

DIADEM 8.6.6.8. ref.
 James Ellor

GOD CONSECRATES US

Old Testament Reading

EXODUS 29:38-46

³⁸ "Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs a year old day by day regularly. ³⁹ One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. ⁴⁰ And with the first lamb a tenth measure of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering. ⁴¹ The other lamb you shall offer at twilight, and shall offer with it a grain offering and its drink offering, as in the morning, for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD. ⁴² It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. ⁴³ There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. ⁴⁴ I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. ⁴⁵ I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

Ⲱ VERSICLE Ⲱ The Word of the Lord!
Ⲡ RESPONSE Ⲡ **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm of Preparation

#16A

1. ¹Pre - serve me, O my God; you are my ref - uge true.
2. ⁴Those seek - ing oth - er gods shall mul - ti - ply their pain;
3. ⁶The lot that fell to me is beau - ti - ful and fair;
4. ⁸I keep be - fore me still the LORD whom I have proved;
5. ¹⁰For you will not for - sake my soul un - to the grave,

²I say, "You are my Lord. I have no good a - part from you."
their gifts of blood I of - fer not; their gods I will not name.
• the her - i - tage in which I dwell is good be - yond com - pare.
at my right hand he guards from ill, and I shall not be moved.
nor will you leave your Ho - ly One to see the tomb's de - cay.

³The saints through - out the earth— in them is my de - light,
⁵O LORD, you are to me my cup and por - tion sure;
• ⁷I praise the LORD a - bove, whose coun - sel guides a - right.
⁹My heart is there - fore glad; my tongue with joy will sing.
¹¹Life's path - way you make known, full joy of bound - less store

for ex - cel - lent are they who live as ho - ly in your sight.
the lot that you as - sign to me you guard and keep se - cure.
• My heart in - structs me in his love in sea - sons of the night.
My bod - y, too, will rest se - cure in hope un - wav - er - ing.
is found with you; at your right hand are plea - sures ev - er - more.

OPC/URCNA 2016
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LEOMINSTER S.M.D.
George William Martin, 1862
arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874

New Testament Reading

ACTS 1:6-11; 2:42-47

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ 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.”

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

☩ VERSICLE ☩ The Word of the Lord!
☩ RESPONSE ☩ Thanks be to God!

Homily

REV. JESSE PIRSCHER

THIS WEEK'S
HOMILY IS
AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE, YOUTUBE,
FACEBOOK, AND
SERMONAUDIO
(AUDIO ONLY).

Hymn of Response

#275 ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE

1. A - rise, my soul, a - rise, shake off your guilt - y fears;
2. He ev - er lives a - bove, for me to in - ter - cede,
3. Five bleed - ing wounds he bears, re - ceived on Cal - va - ry;
4. My God is rec - on - ciled; his par - d'ning voice I hear;

the bleed - ing Sac - ri - fice in my be - half ap - pears:
his all - re - deem - ing love, his pre - cious blood to plead;
they pour ef - fec - tual prayers, they strong - ly plead for me.
he owns me for his child, I can no lon - ger fear;

be - fore the throne my Sure - ty stands, be - fore the throne my
his blood a - toned for ev - 'ry race, his blood a - toned for
"For - give him, O for - give," they cry, "for - give him, O for -
with con - fi - dence I now draw nigh, with con - fi - dence I

Sure - ty stands, my name is writ - ten on his hands.
ev - 'ry race, and sprin - kles now the throne of grace.
give," they cry, "nor let that ran - somed sin - ner die!"
now draw nigh, and "Fa - ther, Ab - ba, Fa - ther!" cry.

Charles Wesley, 1742
alt. 1961, mod.

LENOX 6.6.6.6.8.8.8.
Louis Edson, 1782

Confession of Faith

APOSTLES CREED

IN UNISON **I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was 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 there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

THE TERM
"CATHOLIC" IN ITS
HISTORICAL USE
MEANS "UNIVERSAL"

Closing Prayers

☩ VERSICLE
☩ RESPONSE

☩ Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord God, heavenly Father, You sent Your only begotten Son into our world in order to rescue us from sin, death and the devil. In His perfect life, sacrificial death, glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven, He fulfilled everything written about Him in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms, thus winning for us forgiveness, life and salvation. Keep us, Your baptized children, clothed in His holiness and righteousness as His beautiful and unblemished Bride. Lord, in Your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

☩ Give encouragement to congregations who are unable to gather and bring them together soon, and renew in us a love for the Holy Scriptures. Continue to raise up faithful stewards of Your mysteries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name would be proclaimed in our midst and throughout all the world, and prepare all Your baptized children to be faithful confessors of the hope that is in them. Lord, in Your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

☩ In the midst of strife and conflict, pestilence and unemployment, and wars and rumors of wars, remind us that You have given all authority in heaven and earth to Your Son, our ascended Lord. Call to faithfulness the leaders of the earth and bless those who govern. Thwart those who would hinder Your reign among all peoples. Deliver us from greed, self-centeredness and pride, and grant us a proper sense of priorities, that we may seek those things which are above. Lord, in Your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

☩ VERSICLE ☩ On this day, as we celebrate Your Son's ascension into heaven where He intercedes for us as
☩ RESPONSE our Prophet, Priest and King, give us the confidence that whatever we ask in His name, and according to His will, shall be granted. Feed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation here at the holy altar, that our faith may be strengthened and our hope increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

☩ **hear our prayer.**

☩ You have not left us without comfort and hope. Consider our woes and fears; be not far from us in our times of trial. Be with the lonely, the forsaken, the sick and the distressed. Help us to be watchful and to be in prayer, longing for Your Son's glorious return, when we, too, shall be resurrected to dwell body and soul in His Kingdom, which has no end. Lord, in Your mercy,

☩ **hear our prayer.**

☩ Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our crucified, risen and ascended Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, who instructed us how to pray by saying,

IN UNISON **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.**

GOD COMMISSIONS US

Departing Words of Comfort

HEBREWS 13

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen.*