

Lord's Day Service



At Church of the King on August 2nd, 2026

The 10th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

Call to Worship: Where God Calls Us Into His Presence

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

"The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and in truth." John 4:23,24 **Come Worship the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!**

God's People Respond With a Hymn of Adoration: [based on Psalm 145:10]

O worship the King all glorious above,	All hail to the King, in splendor enthroned.
O gratefully sing his power and His love.	Glad praises we bring, Thy wonders made known;
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,	Returning victorious great conqueror of sin,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.	King Jesus, all glorious, our victory will win.

Salutation and Response: [based on Matthew 28:19, Ruth 2:4 and John 3:16]

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

Amen!

Jehovah be with you!

And also with you!

For God so loved the world,

That He gave His only begotten Son.

That whoever believes in Him

Should not perish but have everlasting life!

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us In Christ

"For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." John 3:20

The Call for Confession from God's Word:

[congregation standing]

"Jesus rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean. John 13:4-12a

God's People sing our Hymn of Confession:

Holy Father, Hear My Cry

Horatius Bonar, 1843

Gregory D. Wilbur, 2010

1. Ho - ly Fa - ther, hear my cry; Ho - ly Sav - ior, bend Thine ear;
2. Fa - ther, save me from my sin; Sav - ior, I Thy mer - cy crave;
3. Fa - ther, let me taste Thy love; Sav - ior, fill my soul with peace;
4. Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it— Thou One Je - ho - vah, shed a - broad

Ho - ly Spir - it, come Thou nigh; Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Spir - it, hear.
Gra - cious Spir - it, make me clean: Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Spir - it, save.
Spir - it, come my heart to move: Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, bless.
All Thy grace with - in me now; Be my Fa - ther and my God.

Silent Confession: "Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John 7:37b-38

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

Corporate Prayer of Confession:

We confess to Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and before all the company of heaven, that we have sinned, in thought, word and deed, through our fault, our own fault, our own most grievous fault; wherefore, we pray Almighty God to have mercy upon us, to forgive us all our sins, and to make clean our hearts. For we pray in the Father's love, pleading the shed blood of Christ His Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Arise and Receive the Assurance of Pardon & Forgiveness

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free’?” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. “And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. “Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:31-36

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for our sins and to be raised for our justification; and for His sake forgives us all our sins. This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Having confessed our sins with faith in the completed work of Christ on our behalf, we are forgiven; we have been cleansed and clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. And not only that, we are now **in** Christ and **in** Him we are in the heavenly places, in the very midst of the blessed Trinity with the Saints of all the ages, from every tongue, tribe and nation prepared to worship in the beauty of holiness.

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 and singing:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks:

[congregation standing]

"And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; for You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation," Revelation 5:9

PSALM 8

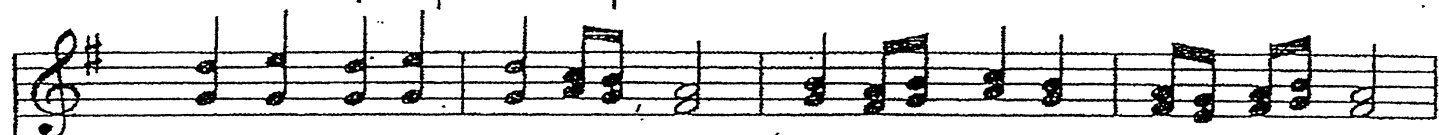
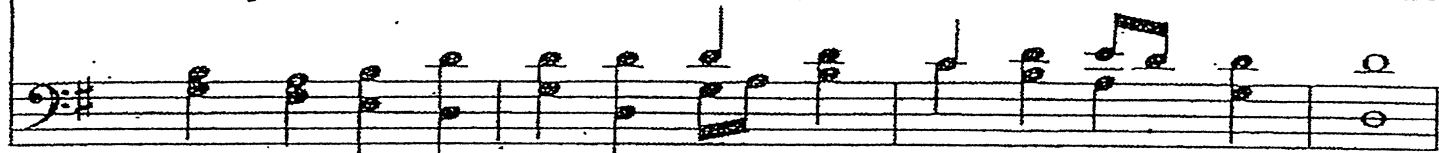
AMSTERDAM. 76.76.77.76.



1. ¹ LORD, our Lord, in all the earth How ex - cel - lent Your name!
2. ³ When I view the skies a - bove Which Your own fin - gers made,
3. ⁵ Next to God You have made man, With light and hon - or crowned.



- You a - bove the heav'ns have set The splen - dor of Your fame.
When I see the moon and stars Which You in or - der laid,
⁶ You placed him a - bove Your works; Be - neath him all is found:



- ² From the mouths of in - fants young You the power of praise com - pose
⁴ What is man so frail and weak That You should re - mem - ber him?
⁷ Ox - en, sheep, and all wild beasts, ⁸ Birds, and fish the o - ceans claim.



- In the face of en - e - mies To stop a - veng - ing foes.
What can be the son of man That You should care for him?
⁹ LORD, our Lord, in all the earth How ex - cel - lent Your name!



The Sacrament of Baptism:

The Kendrick Family presents **Salem Elani;**
For Baptism into the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

"Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." Luke 18:15-17

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 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." Acts 2:38, 39

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. I Corinthians 10:1-4

Hymn of Thanks: *Beneath the Blood-Stained Doorpost*

Based on Exodus 12, words attributed to Harry Ironside, sung to the tune of O Sacred Head Now Wounded

***Beneath the blood-stained doorpost I with my children stand;
A messenger of evil is passing through the land.
There is no other refuge from the destroyer's face;
Beneath the blood-stained doorpost shall be our hiding place.***

***My Savior, for my dear ones I claim Thy promise true.
The Lamb is "for the household"—the children's Savior too.
On earth the little children once felt Thy touch divine;
Beneath the blood-stained doorpost Thy blessing give to mine.***

***O Thou who gave them, guard them, those wayward little feet,
The wilderness before them, the ills of life to meet.
My mother love is helpless, I trust them to Thy care!
Beneath the blood-stained doorpost, oh, keep me ever there!***

Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:1-3

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

Genesis 17:23-18:22

So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him.

Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael; And all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

[8:1] Then Jehovah appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said,

“My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. “Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. “And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant.” They said, “Do as you have said.”

So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead *it* and make cakes.” And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave *it* to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set *it* before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” So he said, “Here, in the tent.” And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” And Jehovah said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear *a child*, since I am old?’ “Is anything too hard for Jehovah? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied *it*, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. And He said, “No, but you did laugh!”

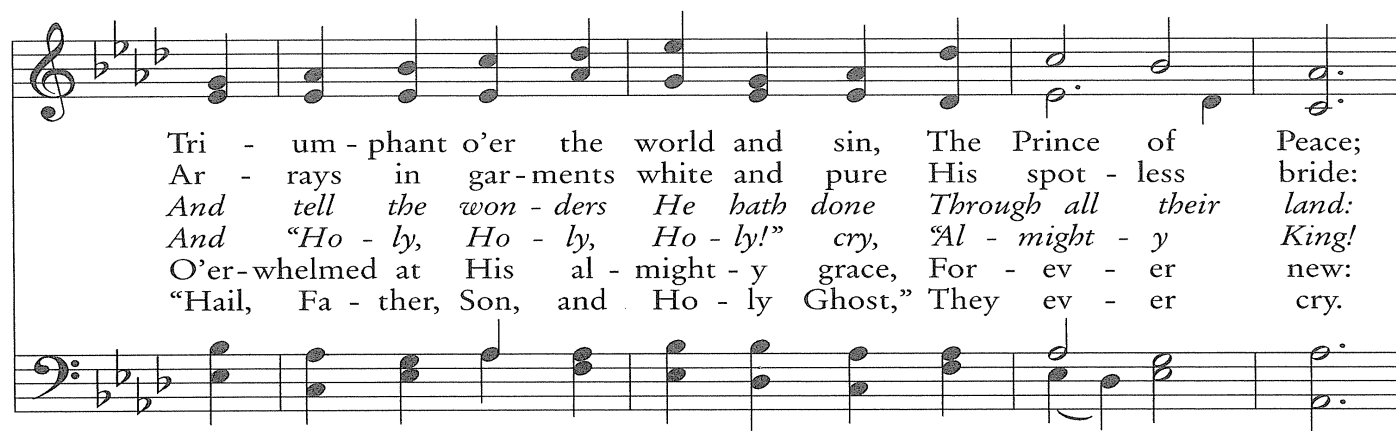
Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. And Jehovah said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, “since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of Jehovah, to do righteousness and justice, that Jehovah may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

And Jehovah said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, “I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.” Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before Jehovah.

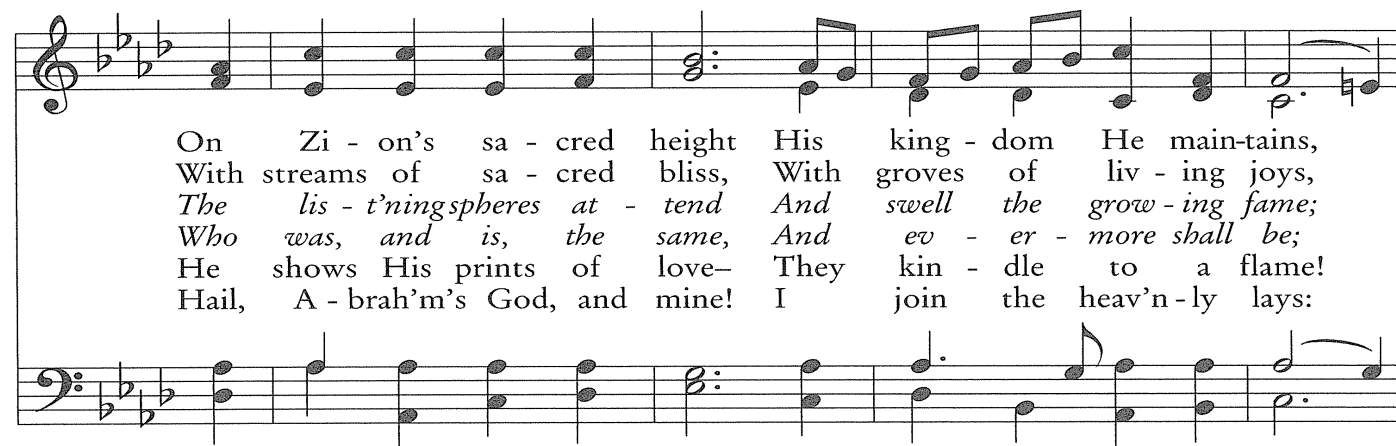
God's People Sing a Hymn of Response: The God of Abraham Praise V7-12



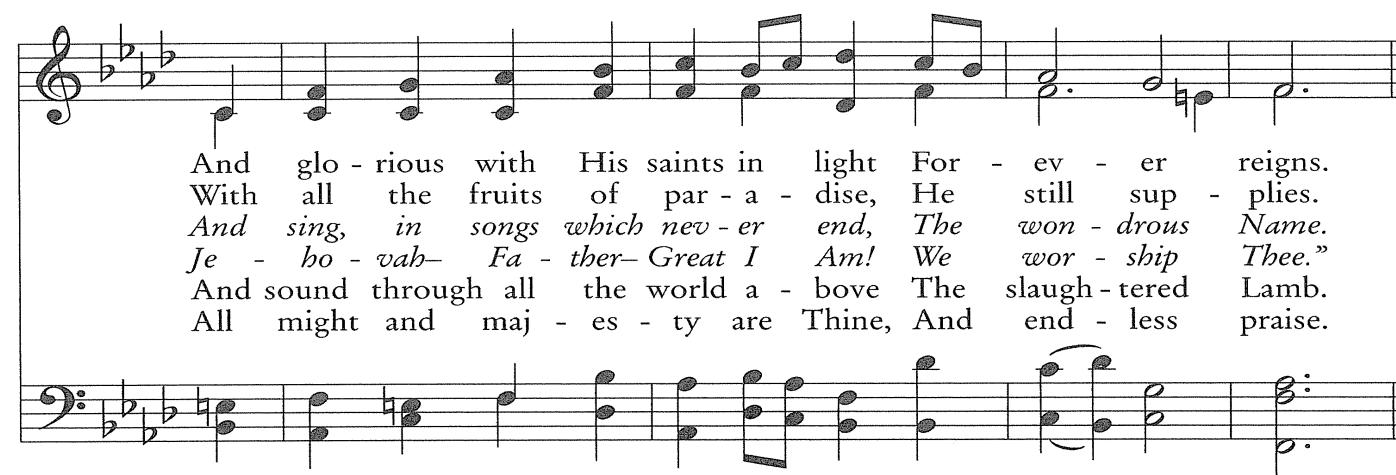
7. There dwells the Lord our King, The LORD our Right - eous - ness,
 8. He keeps His own se - cure, He guards them by His side,
 9. Be - fore the great Three - One They all ex - ult - ing stand,
 10. The God Who reigns on high The great arch - an - gels sing,
 11. Be - fore the Sav - ior's face The ran - somed na - tions bow,
 12. The whole tri - um - phant host Give thanks to God on high;



Tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, The Prince of Peace;
 Ar - rays in gar - ments white and pure His spot - less bride:
 And tell the won - ders He hath done Through all their land:
 And "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly!" cry, "Al - might - y King!
 O'er - whelmed at His al - might - y grace, For - ev - er new:
 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost," They ev - er cry.



On Zi - on's sa - cred height His king - dom He main - tains,
 With streams of sa - cred bliss, With groves of liv - ing joys,
 The lis - t'ningspheres at - tend And swell the grow - ing fame;
 Who was, and is, the same, And ev - er - more shall be;
 He shows His prints of love - They kin - dle to a flame!
 Hail, A - brah'm's God, and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays:



And glo - rious with His saints in light For - ev - er reigns.
 With all the fruits of par - a - dise, He still sup - plies.
 And sing, in songs which nev - er end, The won - drous Name.
 Je - ho - vah - Fa - ther - Great I Am! We wor - ship Thee."
 And sound through all the world a - bove The slaugh - tered Lamb.
 All might and maj - es - ty are Thine, And end - less praise.

“Nathanael and his Confession”

From **Pastor Paul Liberati**

Based on **John 1:47-51**

John 1:43-51 (NKJV)

43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” **46** And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” **47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” **48** Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” **49** Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” **50** Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” **51** And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Notes:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Response:

[congregation standing]

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

UNION (C.M.)

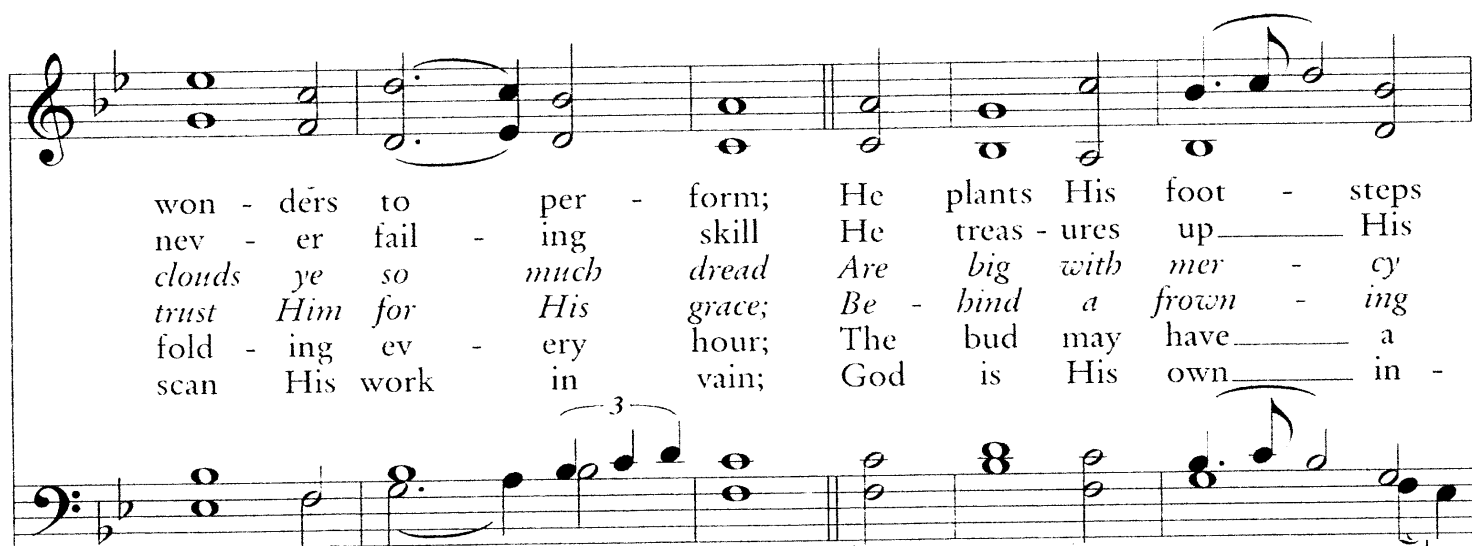
William Cowper, 1774

Alexander Gillet, *Harmonia Sacra*, 1867

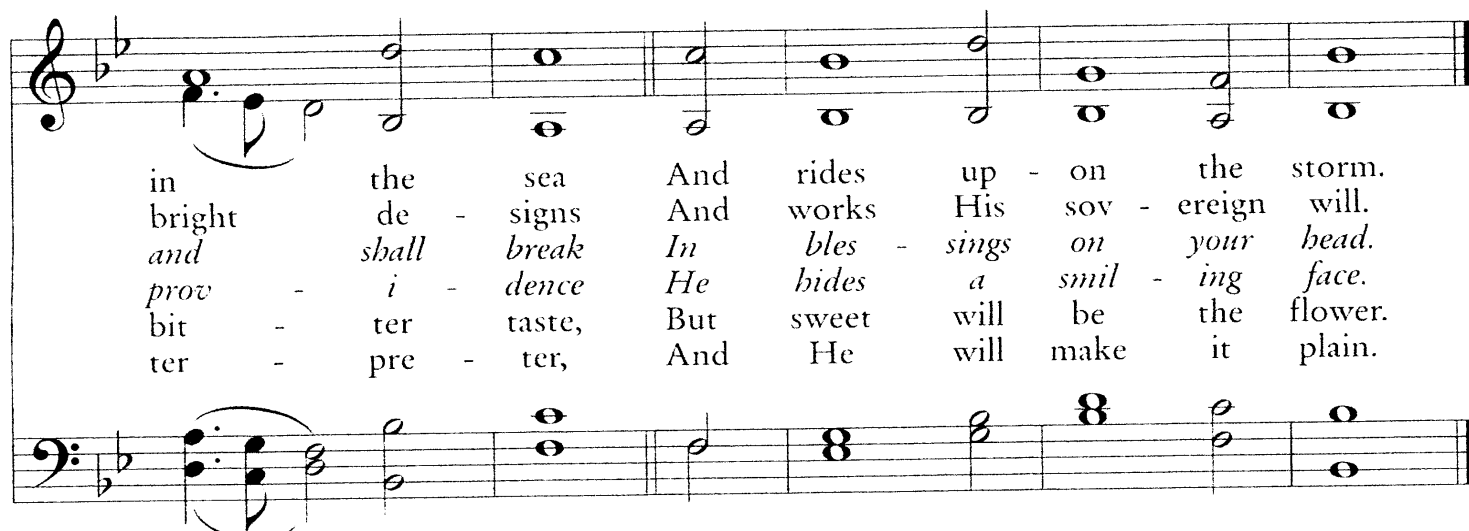


1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
2. Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines Of
3. Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The
4. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But
5. His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, Un -
6. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err And

Melody



won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps
nev - er fail - ing skill He treas - ures up His
clouds ye so much dread Are big with mer - cy
trust Him for His grace; Be - bind a frown - ing
fold - ing ev - ery hour; The bud may have a
scan His work in vain; God is His own in -



in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
bright de - signs And works His sov - ereign will.
and shall break In bles - sings on your head.
prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.
bit - ter taste, But sweet will be the flower.
ter - pre - ter, And He will make it plain.

Member Covenant Signing: Hensley and Serduke Households

"Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. And he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers." II Chronicles 34:31,32

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42

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

"Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." John 12:3-8

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

Justin Roome

"Jehovah has heard my supplication; Jehovah will receive my prayer." Psalm 6:9

**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 our Lord our God will call.

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

Piano

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music, each with a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 8, 16, 25, 35, 43, 52, 60, and 70. The music features a variety of note values, including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are: 'I be-lieve in God the Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, Ma-ker of hea-ven and earth; And in Je-sus Christ, His on-ly be-got-ten Son, our Lord; Who was con-ceived by the Ho-ly Spi-rit, born of the vir-gin Ma-ry, Suf-fered un-der Pon-tius Pi-late, was dru-bi-fied, dead and bur-ied; He de-scend-ed in-to hell, the third day He rose a-gain from the dead; He as-cend-ed in-to heav-en and sit-teth at the right hand of God the Fath-er Al-might-ty; From thence He shall come to judge the liv-ing and the dead. I be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spi-rit, I be-lieve a ho-ly cath-olic Church, the com-mun-ion of saints, the for-give-ness of sins; the re-sur-rec-tion of the bo-dy, and the life ey-er-last-ing. A-men.'

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

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

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

Pi-late, was dru-bi-fied, dead and bur-ied; He de-scend-ed in-to

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

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

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

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

re-sur-rec-tion of the bo-dy, and the life ey-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)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Psalm 23

ST. COLUMBA (8 7. 8 7)
Old Irish hymn melody

Henry W. Baker, 1868



1. The King of love my Shep - herd is, Whose
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow My
3. Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With
5. Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my sight; Thine
6. And so through all the length of days Thy



good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
ran - somed soul He lead - eth, And where the ver - dant
yet in love He sought me, And on His shoul - der
Thee, dear Lord, be - side me; Thy rod and staff my
unc - tion grace be - stow - eth; And O what trans - port
good - ness fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.
of de - light From Thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
sing Thy praise With - in Thy house for - ev - er.

Feasting At The Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1st 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

"When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen".[Matthew 28:17-20]

God's People Respond With Singing:

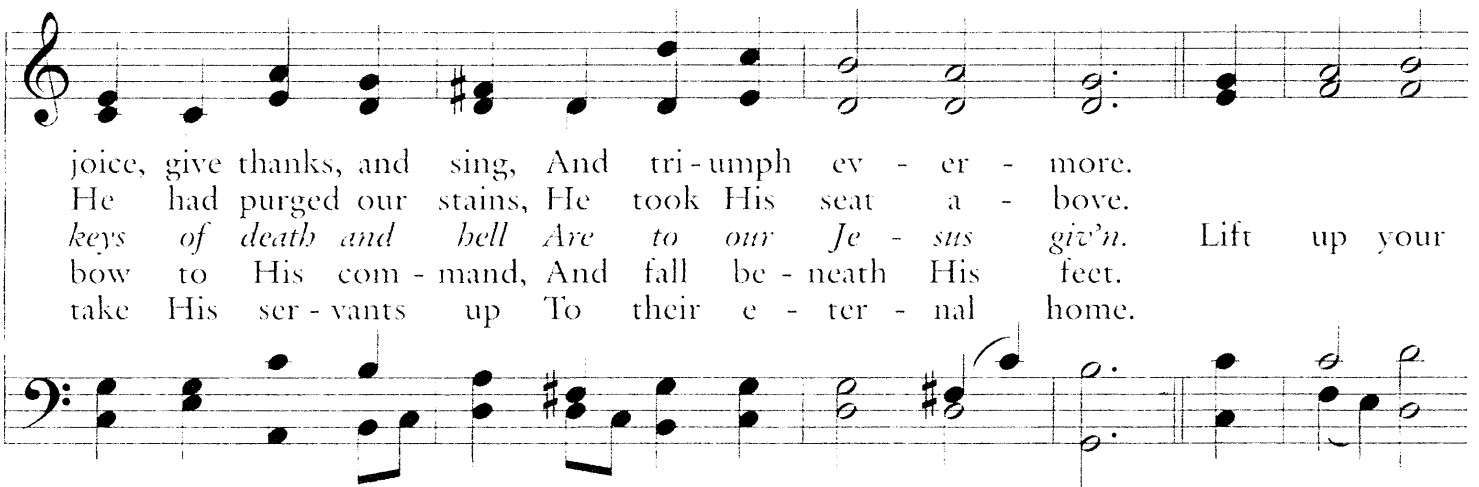
Rejoice, the Lord Is King

DARWALL (6 6. 6 6. 4 4. 4 4)
John Darwall, 1770

Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.



1. Re - joice, the Lord is King: Your Lord and King a - dore! Re -
2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, The God of truth and love: When
3. His king - dom can - not fail. He rules o'er earth and heav'n; The
4. He sits at God's right hand Till all his foes sub - mit, And
5. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, And



joice, give thanks, and sing, And tri - umph ev - er - more.
He had purged our stains, He took His seat a - bove.
keys of death and hell Are to our Je - sus giv'n. Lift up your
bow to His com - mand, And fall be - neath His feet.
take His ser - vants up To their e - ter - nal home.



heart, Lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

God Blesses His People – The Benediction:

[congregation standing]

*Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them,
and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. Leviticus 9:22*

“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 Corinthians 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 - ra - 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 31 Questions 83, 84 & 85

83. What is the Office of the Keys?

The preaching of the Holy Gospel and Christian discipline; by these two the kingdom of heaven is opened to believers and shut against unbelievers.[1] [1] Matt. 16:18–19; 18:18; *Jn. 20:23; *Lk. 24:46–47; *1 Cor. 1:23–24.

84. How is the kingdom of heaven opened and shut by the preaching of the Holy Gospel?

In this way: that, according to the command of Christ, it is proclaimed and openly witnessed to believers, one and all, that as often as they accept with true faith the promise of the Gospel, all their sins are really forgiven them of God for the sake of Christ’s merits; and on the contrary, to all unbelievers and hypocrites, that the wrath of God and eternal condemnation abide on them so long as they are not converted.[1] According to this testimony of the Gospel, God will judge men both in this life and in that which is to come.

[1] Jn. 20:21–23; *Acts 10:43; *Isa. 58:1; *2 Cor. 2:15–16; *Jn. 8:24.

85. How is the kingdom of heaven shut and opened by Christian discipline? **In this way: that, according to the command of Christ, if any under the Christian name show themselves unsound either in doctrine or in life, and after several brotherly admonitions do not turn from their errors or evil ways, they are complained of to the Church or to its proper officers; and, if they neglect to hear them also, are by them denied the holy sacraments and thereby excluded from the Christian communion, and by God Himself from the kingdom of Christ; and if they promise and show real amendment, they are again received as members of Christ and His Church.**[1]
 [1] Matt. 18:15–18; 1 Cor. 5:3–5, 11; 2 Thess. 3:14–15; 2 Jn. 1:10–11.

The Heidelberg Catechism – Questions 1–24

1. What is your only comfort in life and in death? **That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,[1] am not my own,[2] but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,[3] who with His precious blood [4] has fully satisfied for all my sins,[5] and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;[6] and so preserves me [7] that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head;[8] indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.[9] Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,[10] and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.**[11][1] Rom. 14:7–8. [2] 1Cor. 6:19. [3] 1Cor. 3:23. [4] 1Pet. 1:18–19. [5] 1Jn. 1:7; 2:2. [6] 1Jn. 3:8. [7] Jn. 6:39. [8] Matt. 10:29–30; Lk. 21:18. [9] Rom. 8:28. [10] 2Cor. 1:21–22; Eph. 1:13–14; Rom. 8:16. [11] Rom. 8:1
2. How many things are necessary for you to know, that in this comfort you may live and die happily? **Three things:[1] First, the greatness of my sin and misery.[2] Second, how I am redeemed from all my sins and misery.[3] Third, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.**[4] [1] Lk. 24:46–47; 1 Cor. 6:11; Tit. 3:3–7. [2] Jn. 9:41; 15:22. [3] Jn. 17:3. [4] Eph. 5:8–11; 1 Pet. 2:9–12; Rom. 6:11–14; *Rom. 7:24–25; *Gal. 3:13; *Col. 3:17.
3. From where do you know your misery? **From the Law of God.**[1] [1] Rom. 3:20; *Rom. 7:7.
4. What does the Law of God require of us? **Christ teaches us in sum, Matthew 22, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”**[1] [1] Matt. 22:37–40; Lk. 10:27. *Deut. 6:5. *Gal. 5:14.
5. Can you keep all this perfectly? **No,[1] for I am prone by nature to hate God and my neighbor.**[2]
 [1] Rom. 3:10–12, 23; 1 Jn. 1:8, 10. [2] Rom. 8:7; Eph. 2:3.
6. Did God create man thus, wicked and perverse? **No,[1] but God created man good and after His own image,[2] that is, in righteousness and true holiness, that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love Him, and live with Him in eternal blessedness, to praise and glorify Him.**[3]
 [1] Gen. 1:31. [2] Gen. 1:26–27. [3] 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24.
7. From where, then, does this depraved nature of man come? **From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise,[1] whereby our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.**[2]
 [1] Gen. 3 (The whole chapter). Rom. 5:12, 18–19. [2] Ps. 51:5; *Ps. 14:2–3.
8. But are we so depraved that we are completely incapable of any good and prone to all evil? **Yes,[1] unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.**[2] [1] Jn. 3:6; Gen. 6:5; Job 14:4; Isa. 53:6. [2] Jn. 3:5; *Gen. 8:21; *2 Cor. 3:5; *Rom. 7:18; *Jer. 17:9.
9. Does not God, then, do injustice to man by requiring of him in His Law that which he cannot perform? **No, for God so made man that he could perform it;[1] but man, through the instigation of the devil, by willful disobedience deprived himself and all his descendants of those divine gifts.**[2] [1] Eph. 4:24. [2] Rom. 5:12.

10. Will God allow such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished?

Certainly not,[1] but He is terribly displeased with our inborn as well as our actual sins, and will punish them in just judgment in time and eternity, as He has declared, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”[2] [1] Heb. 9:27. [2] Deut. 27:26; Gal. 3:10; *Rom. 1:18; *Matt. 25:41.

11. But is not God also merciful?

God is indeed merciful,[1] but He is likewise just:[2] His justice therefore requires that sin which is committed against the most high majesty of God, be punished with extreme, that is, with everlasting punishment both of body and soul. [1] Ex. 34:6–7. [2] Ex. 20:5; Ps. 5:5–6; 2 Cor. 6:14–16; *Rev. 14:11

12. Since, then, by the righteous judgment of God we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, how may we escape this punishment and be again received into favor?

God wills that His justice be satisfied:[1] therefore, we must make full satisfaction to that justice, either by ourselves or by another.[2] [1] Ex. 20:5; 23:7. [2] Rom. 8:3–4.

13. Can we ourselves make this satisfaction?

Certainly not; on the contrary, we daily increase our guilt.[1] [1] Job 9:2–3; 15:15–16; Matt. 6:12; *16:26.

14. Can any mere creature make satisfaction for us?

None; for first, God will not punish any other creature for the sin which man committed:[1] and further, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God’s eternal wrath against sin [2] and redeem others from it. [1] Heb. 2:14–18. [2] Ps. 130:3.

15. What kind of mediator and redeemer, then, must we seek?

One who is a true [1] and righteous man,[2] and yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is also true God.[3] [1] 1 Cor. 15:21–22, 25–26. [2] Jer. 13:16; Isa. 53:11; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:15–16 [3] Isa. 7:14; Heb. 7:26.

16. Why must He be a true and righteous man?

Because the justice of God requires [1] that the same human nature which has sinned should make satisfaction for sin; but one who is himself a sinner cannot satisfy for others.[2] [1] Rom. 5:15. [2] Isa. 53:3–5.

17. Why must He also be true God?

That by the power of His Godhead He might bear in His manhood the burden of God’s wrath,[1] and so obtain for [2] and restore to us righteousness and life.[3] [1] Isa. 53:8; Acts 2:24. [2] Jn. 3:16; Acts 20:28. [3] 1 Jn. 1:2.

18. But who now is that Mediator, who in one person is true God and also a true and righteous man?

Our Lord Jesus Christ,[1] who is freely given unto us for complete redemption and righteousness.[2]

[1] Matt. 1:23; 1 Tim. 3:16; Lk. 2:11. [2] 1 Cor. 1:30; *Acts 4:12.

19. From where do you know this?

From the Holy Gospel, which God Himself first revealed in Paradise,[1] afterwards proclaimed by the holy patriarchs [2] and prophets, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law,[3] and finally fulfilled by His well-beloved Son.[4] [1] Gen. 3:15. [2] Gen. 22:18; 49:10–11; Rom. 1:2; Heb. 1:1; Acts 3:22–24; 10:43. [3] Jn. 5:46. Heb. 10:7. [4] Rom. 10:4; Gal. 4:4–5; *Heb. 10:1.

20. Are all men, then, saved by Christ as they have perished in Adam?

No, only those who by true faith are engrafted into Him and receive all His benefits.[1] [1] Jn. 1:12–13; 1 Cor. 15:22; Ps. 2:12; Rom. 11:20; Heb. 4:2–3; 10:39.

21. What is true faith?

True faith is not only a sure knowledge whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in His Word,[1] but also a hearty trust,[2] which the Holy Spirit [3] works in me by the Gospel,[4] that not only to others, but to me also, forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation are freely given by God,[5] merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ’s merits.[6] [1] Jas. 1:6. [2] Rom. 4:16–18; 5:1. [3] 2 Cor. 4:13; Phil. 1:19, 29. [4] Rom. 1:16; 10:17. [5] Heb. 11:1–2; Rom. 1:17. [6] Eph. 2:7–9; Rom. 3:24–25; Gal. 2:16; *Acts 10:43.

22. What, then, is necessary for a Christian to believe?

All that is promised us in the Gospel,[1] which the articles of our catholic, undoubted Christian faith teach us in summary. [1] Jn. 20:31; Matt. 28:20. *2 Pet. 1:21; *2 Tim. 3:15.

23. What are these articles? **The Apostles Creed which we sang earlier.**

24. How are these articles divided? **Into three parts: the first is of God the Father and our creation; the second, of God the Son and our redemption; the third, of God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.[1]** [1] 1 Pet. 1:2; *1 Jn. 5:7