

Order of Public Worship of God

The Twenty-Third Day of April, Two Thousand Twenty-Three
Third Sunday in Easter

PRELUDE

“Everything is necessary that he sends; nothing can be necessary that he withholds.”
- John Newton, *Letters of John Newton*

“It is unlikely that if Paul had journeyed as part of a missionary outreach to Rome on his own, such a high-level audience would be possible. It is one of the mysteries of God and his providence that many times we cannot see why things are happening as they are. Yet God is surely at work in ways we could not have planned for ourselves.”

- Darrell Bock, *Acts*

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never ending skill,
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works his sovereign will.

- William Cowper, “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
Who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord’s resurrection,
may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

† HYMN OF WORSHIP | “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’re have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again:
Gladly, for aye we adore him.

† CALL TO WORSHIP | I Corinthians 15:55-57

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
He is risen!
He is risen indeed!

† HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING | “Eternal Weight Of Glory”

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suff’ring seem so long;
And the toilsome wait and wond’ring
Threaten silence to our song.
Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak,
But our hope is set on Jesus;
And we cling to him, our strength.

Oh eternal weight of glory!
Oh inheritance divine!
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time.
All our pains will be transfigured,
Like the scars of Christ our Lord.
We will see the weight of glory,
And our broken years restored.

Refrain:

For behold! I tell a myst’ry:
At the trumpet sound we’ll wake
“Death is swallowed up in vict’ry!”
When we meet our King of Grace
Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried “How long?”
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior’s vict’ry song

We will see our wounded Savior.
We’ll behold him face to face;
And we’ll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict’ry songs of grace. (*refrain*)

“The Breastplate of St. Patrick”

When my work takes me places I don’t wanna to go:
Christ before me.
When my heart aches with sorrow as I hit the road:
Christ, be with me.

When the care of my family takes all that I have:
Christ within me.
When I’m worn and exhausted, ashamed that I’m mad:
Christ, defend me.

Refrain:

I rise up today in a strength that is not my own
I’m held by the promise of God
That I’m never alone.

When I’m tossed to the side and I wanna give up:
Christ beside me.
When I’m breaking my back, but it’s never enough:
Christ beside me.

When I work hard, but someone else gets the reward:
God’s eyes see me.
When I ask for promotion, but they shut the door:
God’s ears hear me. (*refrain*)

When I climb the first steps toward a long-held dream:
Christ above me.

When I leap out in faith and I hope to find wings:
Christ beneath me.

INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

† CORPORATE PROFESSION OF FAITH | The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
he descended into Hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead
He ascended into heaven
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† GREETING

*Junior Worship begins for children age four through first grade. Please escort children to the following classrooms.
Preschool - Room 10; Kindergarten and First Grade - Room 9. Children will return to sit with their families
before communion.*

READING OF GOD’S WORD | Acts 22:30 - 23:35

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Series: Heaven Is Local
Sermon: "Between a Rock and a Hard Place"
- Rev. James M. Holland

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We are thankful that your mercy is
higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
deeper than all our sin.**

**Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.**

**Help us to change our way of life
so that we may desire what is good,
love what you love,
and do what you command,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Psalm 103:8; 13

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...
As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

How do we take communion here at St. Patrick?

As the ushers come past your row, please come to the front, take one piece of bread and one cup of wine or juice. Consume these immediately and dispose of your cups in the receptacle on the side as you return to your seat. Each table serves both wine and grape juice, and all of our bread is gluten-free.

Who comes to the Table?

Communion is open to all baptized believers who have made a profession of faith in Jesus. If you have children who have not made a profession of faith, they are not ready to partake of the elements, but please bring them forward to be blessed by one of our elders. If you are not a believer but want to know more about Jesus, you are invited to come forward and simply bypass the table, letting one of the leaders know that you would like to learn more about what it means to know and belong to Jesus.

† HYMN OF ASSURANCE | "On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

**On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie.**

**All o'er those wide extended plains shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns and scatters night away.**

Refrain:

**I am bound, I am bound
I am bound for promised land.
I am bound, I am bound
I am bound for promised land.**

**No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death are felt and feared no more. (refrain)**

**When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face and in his bosom rest? (refrain)**

† BENEDICTION | Revelation 5:12-13

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!
**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor
and glory and might forever and ever!**
Alleluia! He is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Scripture tells us to make our needs known to God, and to call others to pray with and for us.
If you would like prayer, elders will be standing in the front of the sanctuary (pulpit side)
immediately following the service to pray with you.*



Upcoming Events and Registrations:



Fiscal Fitness

The budget for our fiscal year that began on July 1, 2022 and ends on June 30, 2023 is based on unrestricted giving of \$1.63 million. The unrestricted operating cash reserve fund balance began the current fiscal year with approximately \$835 thousand. Below is the latest financial update for the month ended March 31, 2023:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Actual unrestricted tithes and offerings	\$ 95,754	\$1,205,429
<u>Budgeted unrestricted tithes and offerings</u>	<u>147,978</u>	<u>1,298,509</u>
Favorable (unfavorable)	(\$ 52,224)	(\$ 93,080)

As of March 31, 2023, we have approximately \$2.3 million in total debt and approximately \$137 thousand in cash restricted for facilities. This restricted cash balance will be used to fund minimum principle payments and cover any unexpected, unplanned maintenance needs for our facility.

ST. PATRICK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EPC



LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. LOVING LIFE.

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