

Order of Public Worship of God

The Thirtieth Day of April, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

Fourth Sunday in Easter

PRELUDE

For not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
But deeds of love and mercy, the heav'nly kingdom comes.

- Ernest Shurtleff, "Lead On, O King Eternal"

"Only within strong communities can one find the relational means to sustain the difficulties endemic to life in the modern world... or find the resources to resist its destructive influences and pressures... the church is the plausibility structure and the only one with the resources capable of offering an alternative formation to that offered by poplar culture."

- James Davison Hunter, *To Change the World*

"We cannot separate our acceptance of God's grace from the practice of generosity. We are generous because God was first generous to us, freely giving his life for our sakes. As followers of Christ, we seek to imitate the one who gave himself for us."

- Chris Willard and Jim Sheppard, *Contagious Generosity*



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 | "Arise My Soul Arise"

Arise my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears,
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears.
Before the throne my surety stands
Before the throne my surety stands
My name is written on his hands.

Chorus:

Arise (arise), Arise (arise), Arise - Arise my soul arise.
Arise (arise), Arise (arise), Arise - Arise my soul arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede.
His all redeeming love, his precious blood to plead.
His blood atoned for every race
His blood atoned for every race
And sprinkles now the throne of grace. (chorus)

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary.
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.
Forgive him, O forgive, they cry
Forgive him, O forgive, they cry
Nor let that ransomed sinner die. (chorus)

My God is reconciled, his pard'ning voice I hear.

He owns me for his child, I can no longer fear.

With confidence I now draw nigh

With confidence I now draw nigh

And Father, Abba Father, cry! (chorus)

† 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 | "His Mercy Is More"

What love could remember no wrongs we have done

Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam

What father, so tender, is calling us home

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Refrain:

Praise the Lord

His mercy is more

Stronger than darkness, new every morn

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What riches of kindness he lavished on us

His blood was the payment, his life was the cost

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more (refrain)

What glory of presence, the Lamb on the throne,

Now tending a garden of our future home:

A city of nations where tears are no more,

The table is ready, his mercy outpoured. (refrain)

"Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand"

Ten thousand times ten thousand, in sparkling raiment bright,

The armies of the ransomed saints throng up the steeps of light.

'Tis finished, all is finished, their fight with death and sin;

Fling open wide the golden gates and let the victors in.

What rush of alleluias fills all the earth and sky!

What ringing of a thousand harps proclaims the triumph nigh!

O day, for which creation and all its tribes were made;

O joy, for all its former woes, a thousandfold repaid!

O then what raptured greetings on Canaan's happy shore;

What knitting severed friendships up where partings are no more!

Then eyes with joy shall sparkle, that brimmed with tears of late;

Orphans no longer fatherless nor widows desolate.

Bring near thy great salvation, thou Lamb for sinners slain;

Fill up the roll of thine elect, then take thy power and reign.

Appear, Desire of Nations, thine exiles long for home.

Show in the heav'ns thy promised sign; thou Prince and Savior, come!

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 24:1-27

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Series: Heaven Is Local

Sermon: "Defending the Gospel"

- 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 | “How Firm a Foundation”

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.”

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to break,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

† 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
Budgeted unrestricted tithes and offerings	147,978	1,298,509
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.

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ST. PATRICK

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EPC



LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. LOVING LIFE.