

Order of Public Worship of God

The Sixteenth Day of April, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

Second Sunday in Easter

PRELUDE

“The stories told in most families are a kind of propaganda.”

- Dan Allender, *To Be Told*

“Paul will face what all those who are imagined as traitors must face – the struggle to have his own voice heard in the midst of a loud and false narrative that he cannot hope to defeat.”

- Willie James Jennings, *Acts*

“We may be surprised, may smile at the incongruity... may delight that a man in chains has more power over the situation than a man with a sword.”

- William Willimon, *Acts*



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 | “Come Christians Join to Sing”

Come Christians join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice, Alleluia! Amen!

Come lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky, Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend, to us he’ll condescend;
His love shall never end, Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain, Alleluia! Amen!
On Heaven’s blissful shore, his goodness we’ll adore;
Singing forevermore, Alleluia! Amen!

† 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 | “Nothing but the Blood”

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my pardon this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (*refrain*)

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (*refrain*)

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (*refrain*)

“Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I’ve sought or hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too;
Human hearts and looks deceive me, thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might;
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, ’twill but drive me to thy breast;
Life with trials hard may press me; heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, ’tis not in grief to harm me, while thy love is left to me;
Oh, ’twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure; come disaster, scorn and pain;
In thy service, pain is pleasure, with thy favor, loss is gain.
I have called thee Abba Father; I have stayed my heart on thee;
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; all must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation; rise o’er sin and fear and care;
Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, think what Father’s smiles are thine;
Think that Jesus died to win thee, child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer;
Heaven’s eternal days before thee, God’s own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

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 21:37-22:29

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

SERMON | Series: Heaven Is Local

Sermon: “Your Testimony about Me”
- Rev. Joshua Smith

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's?

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 | “And Can It Be”

**And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
 Died He for me who caused His pain! For me who Him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die for me?**

Refrain:

**Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die for me!
 Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die for me!**

**He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace!
 Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race.
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me! *(refrain)***

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
 My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. *(refrain)***

**No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
 Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, thru Christ my own.
*(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:

	Month	Year-to-date
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.