

Order of Public Worship of God

The Twenty-First Day of May, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

Ascension Sunday

PRELUDE

“This is not an allegory but reality. We are always on this ship, and the question for the church is not whether we will eat but when and where we will offer food and under what conditions we will invite those fear laden and troubled to eat.”

- Willie James Jennings, *Acts*

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

- Corrie ten Boom

“It is divine love made food, made life for man. God blesses everything He creates, and, in biblical language, this means that He make all creation the sign and means of his presence and wisdom, love and revelation: ‘O taste and see that the Lord is good.’”

- Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*



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 | “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

**All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all!**

**Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race, ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all;
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all!**

**Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all;
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng, we at his feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all;
We’ll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all!**

† 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!

MEMBERSHIP VOWS

Laney Webb; Ben, Chalise, Brooklyn, Annalise, and Elliot Bondurant;

Nathan, Amy, Annabelle, Austin, and Savannah Brewster

Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God and without hope for your salvation except in His sovereign mercy?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for your salvation as He is offered through the Gospel?

Do you now promise and resolve in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating with this congregation in its service to God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?

Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and to the spiritual oversight of this Church Session, and do you promise to promote the unity, purity, and peace of the Church?

WELCOME INTO THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

**Christ be with you, Christ within you,
Christ behind you, Christ before you,
Christ beside you, Christ to win you,
Christ to comfort and restore you,
Christ beneath you, Christ above you,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in the hearts of those that love you,
Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.**

~ Adapted from the Prayer of St. Patrick

CELEBRATION OF INFANT BAPTISM

Benjamin Frazier Norrid, son of Andrew and Ali Norrid

Parents:

Do you acknowledge Ben’s need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God’s covenant promises and benefits for Ben and by faith do you look to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation as you do your own?

Do you now unreservedly dedicate Ben to God, and do you promise by relying on God’s power and grace through the Holy Spirit, to live an exemplary life before him?

Do you commit yourself to pray with and for Ben, to teach him the Scriptures and the great articles of our faith in Jesus Christ?

Do you promise to use every means provided by God, including faithful participation in the life of the Church, to bring Ben up in the loving discipline of the Lord?

Congregation:

Do you, a member of this congregation, acting for yourself and on behalf of the whole Body of Christ, assume responsibility with these parents for the spiritual nurture of this child?

Do you commit yourselves to set a Godly example before him, to provide, as far as you are able, all that is necessary to the end that he may one day confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WELCOME TO THE COVENANT COMMUNITY

**Jesus Loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

† HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING | “Come Thou Almighty King”

**Come, thou Almighty King,
Help us thy name to sing; help us to praise!
Father all glorious, o’er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!**

**Come, thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on thy mighty sword; our prayer attend!
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success,
Spirit of holiness, on us descend!**

**Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who Almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne’er from us depart, Spirit of power!**

**To thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be; hence, evermore
Thy sovereign majesty, may we in glory see,
And to eternity, love and adore!**

“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 27

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

SERMON | Series: Heaven Is Local

Sermon: "Shipwrecked"
- 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.*

After receiving communion, proceed to the front lawn for the baptisms and final hymn.

† CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Savannah Brewster, Brooklyn Bondurant, Annalise Bondurant, and Elliot Bondurant

† HYMN OF ASSURANCE | "Amazing Grace"

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun.**

† 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.*



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ST. PATRICK
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LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. LOVING LIFE.