

Order of Public Worship of God

The Fourteenth Day of May, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

Sixth Sunday in Easter

PRELUDE

“If the focus of our testimony is our changed life, we as well as our hearers are bound to be disappointed.”

- Michael S. Horton, *Christless Christianity*

“Paul knows that Agrippa knows this story. It is a story he shares. Agrippa is royalty, bound to this story if not also bound to the Roman Empire. He is a man caught between two stories, one of hope and the other of empire, and Paul’s opening story invites this assimilated king to his freedom.”

- Willie James Jennings, *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 Thou Fount”

Come thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the Mount! I’m fixed upon it, Mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

† 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 | “Who is Like the Lord our God”

Our Father, he lifts from the ashes, he raises the poor and the lost;
He seats them to dine at his table, to feast without money or cost.
The lonely he settles in families, the barren, a mother he makes;
O happy the heart of the stranger who’s welcomed by this King of Grace.

Refrain:

Who is like the Lord our God? Who with glory fills the sky?
But humbles himself, with the broken to dwell,
Who is like our God?

Though equal to God in his glory, Christ Jesus became like a slave;
He humbled himself in obedience to Death, and the Cross, and the Grave.
Victorious, he rose to the highest; in glory, the Savior was raised.
His name above all names exalted; the heavens and earth sing his praise. *(refrain)*

O Saints, fix your eyes on the Savior, and count all your righteousness loss;
Be found in his love and his favor, and share in his death on the cross.
That all of his power in victory, imparted to you, may abound;
And sharing the suff’rings of Jesus, you share in his glory and crown. *(refrain)*

“Before the Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav’n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there: the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die; my soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

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 25:1-32

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Series: Heaven Is Local

Sermon: “Speak for Yourself”

- 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?

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 | “Immortal Invisible God Only Wise”

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish - but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

† 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.

ST. PATRICK

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EPC



LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. LOVING LIFE.

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