

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com

abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist



Water and Spirit

January 11, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Jacob Hackett

Welcome

Prelude

Noel

Alexandre Guilmant

Call to Worship

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

People: ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name,

People: worship the Lord in holy array.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is upon the water.

People: The God of glory thunders, the Lord upon many waters.

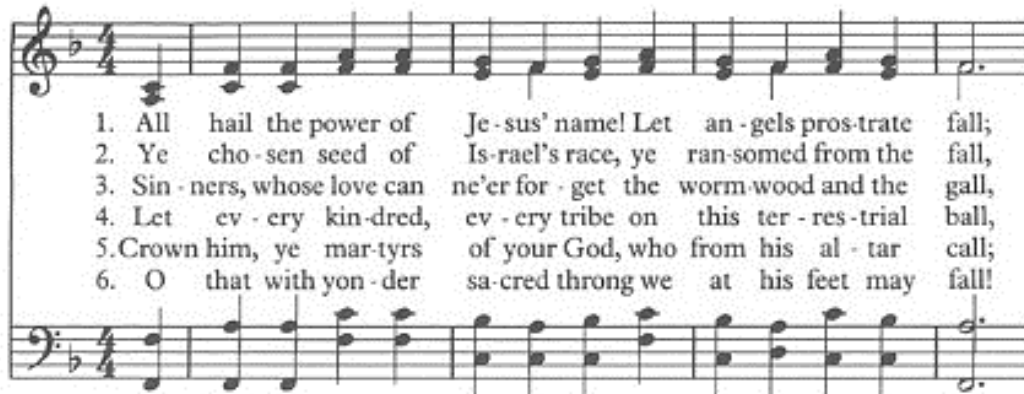
Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful.

People: The voice of God is full of majesty.

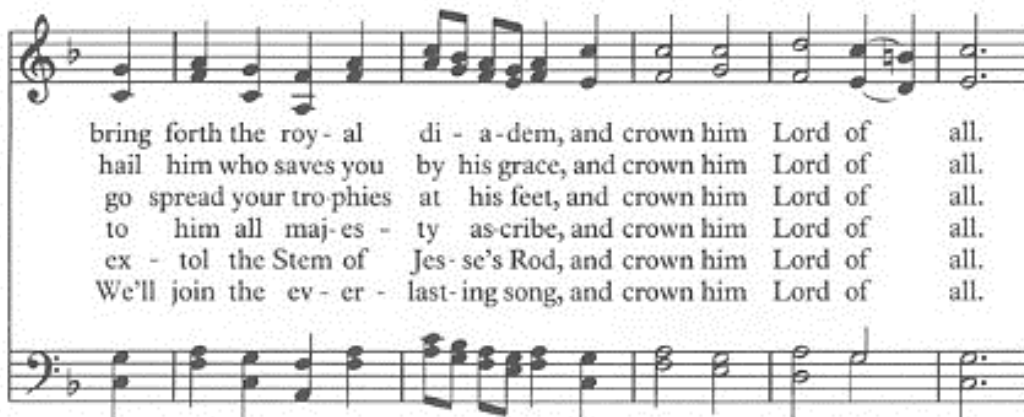
ALL: Let us praise the name of the Lord!

Hymn

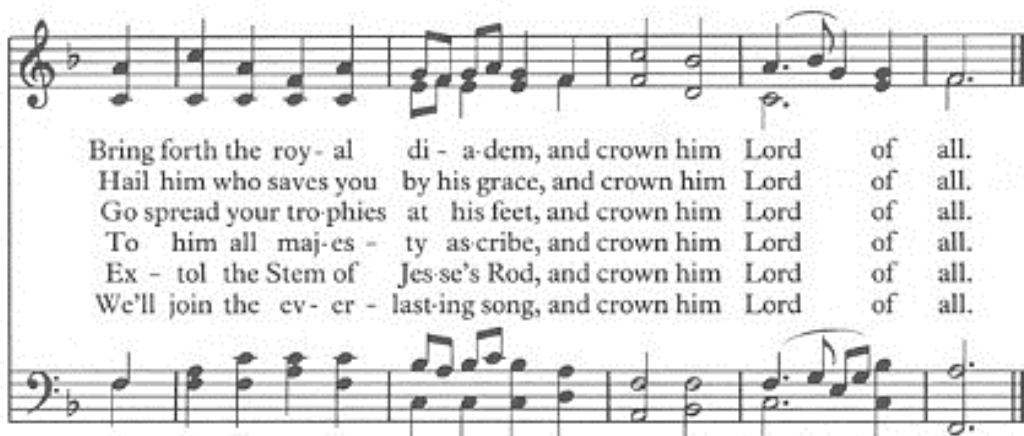
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (verses 1, 2, 5, and 6)



1. All hail the power of Je-sus' name! Let an-gels pros-trate fall;
 2. Ye cho-sen seed of Is-rael's race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
 3. Sin-ners, whose love can ne'er for-get the worm-wood and the gall,
 4. Let ev-ery kin-dred, ev-ery tribe on this ter-res-trial ball,
 5. Crown him, ye mar-tyrs of your God, who from his al-tar call;
 6. O that with yon-der sa-cred throng we at his feet may fall!



bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
 go spread your tro-phies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.
 to him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, and crown him Lord of all.
 ex-tol the Stem of Jes-se's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song, and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
 Go spread your tro-phies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, and crown him Lord of all.
 Ex-tol the Stem of Jes-se's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song, and crown him Lord of all.

Opening Prayer

Living God, when the Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism in Jordan's water you revealed him as your own beloved Son. You anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior now and for ever. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Chorus

O Magnify the Lord

O magnify the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised.
O magnify the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised.
Hosanna, blessed be the Rock, and may the God of my salvation be exalted.
Hosanna, blessed be the Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Senior Choir

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' "

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Message

Water and Spirit

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Carillon

Leo Sowerby

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 6](#) of this document.

Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there
3. Are we weak and heav - y la - den, cum - bered

sins and griefs to bear! What a priv - i - lege to car - ry
trou - ble an - y - where? We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged;
with a load of care? Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge;

ev - ery - thing to God in prayer! O what peace we of - ten
take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so
take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends de - spise, for -

for - feit, O what need-less pain we bear, all be -
 faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share? Je - sus
 sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his

cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
 arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Benediction

Postlude

Swiss Noel with Variations

Louis Claude Daquin

A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - - - - -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

Music © 1999 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co. Used by permission.

Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

Music © 1999 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co. Used by permission.
Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup