ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP of GOD

May 13, 2018
Ascension Sunday
Today is Ascension Sunday, when we remember and celebrate that our Savior was taken up into heaven to rule at the Father’s right hand until He comes again in the same way that the disciples saw Him go into heaven.

What difference should Christ’s ascension make in our lives? It means that in heaven there is One who, knowing firsthand the experience of suffering and temptation, prays for us and perfects our prayers. The ascension is a witness and guarantee of our own bodily resurrection as well as an invitation for us to set our hearts and minds “on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” to rule over all things in heaven and throughout the universe. (Colossians 3:1-2). – The Worship Sourcebook

Let us then, with hearts of thanksgiving, worship our resurrected and ascended Lord together!

The Glory of Our Ascended Lord

ORGAN AND BRASS PRELUDE:
Festive Fanfare on “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” . . . . . . . . Bruce Stevenson

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: “Blessed Assurance” . . . . . . . . arr. Duane Funderburk

A WORD ON WORSHIP . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . George W. Robertson

CHORAL INTROIT: “Praise the Everlasting King!” . . . . . . . . arr. Duane Funderburk

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King!  
The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00)  
Calvin Ellis, Associate Director of Music

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Hebrews 4:14, 16 . . . . . . . . Michael G. Stokke

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession:

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,  
that we may receive mercy  
and find grace to help in time of need.

HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 289 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” . . . . . . LASST UNS ERFREUEN

INVOCATION (Please lift hands)

PSALTER LESSON: Select Verses from Psalm 68 . . . . . . . . . . . . . Betty Eubank (8:15)  
Don Batchelor (11:00)

You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train  
and receiving gifts among men,  
   even among the rebellious,  
   that the Lord God may dwell there.  
Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burdens;  
the God who is our salvation  
   Our God is a God of salvation,  
   and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.  
Bless God in the great congregation,  
the Lord, O you who are of Israel’s fountain!  
   Summon your power, O God,  
the power, O God, by which you have worked for us.
O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord, to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens

Awesome is God from his sanctuary;
he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.

†DOXOLOGY .............................................. OLD HUNDREDTH

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

THE GRACE OF OUR ASCENDED LORD

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our heavenly Father,
You raised Jesus from death to life and crowned Him Lord of all.
Yet, we confess that we regularly enthrone ourselves as king.
Forgive our rebel hearts and treasonous ways,
for we are those who regularly set our minds on earthly things
instead of things above where Christ is.
May Your Spirit lead us again to boast in the cross
so that we might possess a sincere, pure,
and undistracted devotion to our Lord!
For we pray in the name of the One
who possesses all authority in heaven and on earth,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. ......................... I John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.
In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “And Can It Be” ....................... arr. Mark Hayes

Amazing Love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!
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 shouldst 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.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature’s night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray: I woke the dungeon flame with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed, I followed Thee!

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, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me!

Amazing love, amazing love! How can it be?

†PRAYER OF THANKSgIVING. ................................. David A. Bowen

†GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)
A PRAYER FOR OUR 2018 FELLOWS CLASS (8:15)

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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.

HYMN OF PREPARATION:
“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God” ..................... Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

stanza 1: Mary Grace Walters
stanzas 2-3: Congregation stands and sings

Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

2. Holy Spirit, come abide with in; may your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin in each made.  
Show your power once again on earth, cause your

3. Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has thought and deed and attitude. Kindness to the greatest and the least;  
church to hunger for your ways. Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;

THE WORD OF OUR ASCENDED LORD

HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 290 “Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise” ....... LLANFAIR

SERMON

Josh Preston
Gerry Peak
Josh Yates
Tim Russell
George Robertson

3. Congregational Union

Getting Connected at Second

about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, or for

Josh Preston, Pastor of World Missions
Gerry Peak, Pastor to Senior Adults
Josh Yates, Pastoral Resident
Tim Russell, Pastoral Resident
George Robertson, Senior Pastor
INVOCATION

CHORAL INTROIT: “Praise the Everlasting King!”

PSALTER LESSON: Select Verses from Psalm 68

Ascended Lord together!

Let us then, with hearts of thanksgiving, worship our resurrected and unfettered Lord in the new heavens and new earth, in which righteousness dwells (Revelation 21:1-3). As we shall some day all be raised to life together, so do we now offer ourselves to God as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to him (Romans 12:1). For we know that in Christ we are united with him, and he is united with all the heavenly host, and we are united with him (Colossians 1:19). For we pray in the name of the One who is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high, in whose fullness we share (Colossians 3:1-4).

FESTIVE FANFARE ON “ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL”

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “AND CAN IT BE”

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 11:19-30

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field; The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen. (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

SERMON: Vital Signs, Part 3

George W. Robertson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 290 “Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise”

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on “Amazing Grace”

CCLI License #252778

Instrumentalists: Susan Enger and Stephen Cook, trumpets; Greg Luscombe and Nathan DuVall, trombones; Caroline Kinsey, horn; Daniel Gilbert, violin; Stewart Plumlee, percussion; Stan Head, timpani; Samuel Metzger, organ
I. Evangelism *(Acts 11:19-21)*  
A. Every situation is an opportunity  

B. Every person needs to hear  

C. Every effort to make clear  

II. Apologetics *(Acts 11:22-24)*  
A. What is apologetics?  

B. Who are apologists?  

III. Discipleship *(Acts 11:25-26)*  
A. Requires effort  

B. Results in courage  

IV. Mercy Ministry *(Acts 11:27-30)*  
A. Kingdom focused  

B. Earthly results