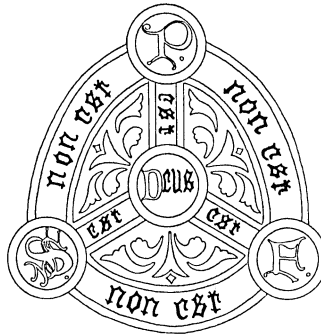


# Ascension Sunday

May 13, 2018



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

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*Upon entering the sanctuary, please be sensitive  
to the congregation's preparation for worship, and please make sure  
all electronic devices are turned off or set to silent mode.*

## **-DRAWING NEAR TO GOD-**

### **Welcome and Silent Prayer**

Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future; through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

### **\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 145.1-3, 10

### **\*Prayer of Adoration**

### **\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 115*

*ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING*

## **-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

### **Confession of Sin**

Almighty God, we confess that we are unworthy of your mercy and grace. We have not loved you as we ought, nor have we loved or forgiven others as you, for Christ's sake, have loved and forgiven us. Too often we have lived in selfishness and pride, receiving the good gifts you have given, but failing to use them to bless and relieve the burdens of others. Pardon our offenses, we pray. Grant us the grace to feel and lament our share in the evil that made it necessary for Jesus to suffer and die for our salvation. Give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance wrought by our Lord and only Redeemer. Amen.

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

**\*Song of Faith in Christ**

*Hymn No. 254*

*ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED*

**\*Confession of Faith**

Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

**Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.<sup>1</sup>**

—The New City Catechism, No. 19

**Congregational Petitions 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 also have forgiven 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.

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<sup>1</sup> "Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities" (Isa 53.10-11).

## **-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

**Scripture Lesson**

1 Timothy 3.1-13

**Sermon**

“Following in the Master’s Steps”  
Rev. Ron Gonzales

**\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 585*

*TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE*

**Worship of God with Tithes and Offerings**

*\*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.*

Words Thomas Ken, 1709; music Genevan Psalter, 1551; Public Domain

## **-OBSERVING THE SACRAMENT-**

### **The Lord's Supper**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the inner ring of each tray; grape juice in the outer ring. We warmly invite to the Table all baptized Christians, who are living under the authority of Christ and his Church. By eating the bread and drinking of the cup, you are admitting that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Christ alone for salvation. If this does not describe you, we are glad you are here and commend to you the following prayers for your use during this time.

#### *A Prayer for those Searching for the Truth*

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life you promise. Amen.

#### *A Prayer of Belief*

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### *A Prayer for those Struggling with Sin*

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false pleasure to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

### **\*Song of Thanksgiving**

*Hymn No. 55*

*TO GOD BE THE GLORY*

## **-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

### **\*Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

### **Postlude and Silent Prayer**

O God, you raised up Christ to rule over all creation, giving him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. We praise you that, lifted in power, he lives and reigns forever in your glory and so fulfills his promise to be with us always to the end of time. Amen.

\*Please stand if able.

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### **Our Nursery Helpers**

Sunday School

*Today:*

*Next Week:*

Worship

*Today:* Collie Parsons

*Next Week:* Samantha Schroeder

### **Gatherings**

*Kids' Quest* is a catechism class for children, ages 5 through elementary grades, taught by Pastor Ron. It meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (September through May), from 3:30 to 4:45 PM, at the church.

*The Leinweber Home Fellowship Group*, led by Chad, meets at the Leinwebers' (60 Cranbrook Ln), on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, at 12:30 PM. For more information, see Chad. All (including children) are welcome.

*The Martin Home Fellowship Group*, led by Eric Carpenter and Steve Davis, meets at Kathy Martin's (213 Chapra St), the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying the 1 Timothy and all are welcome.

*The Men's Group* is taking this week off. It will resume Wednesday, May 23, at 6:00 AM, at Pastor Ron's office. All men are invited.

*Prayer Meeting:* We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, to pray for one another, the kingdom and our world. Please join us.

## **Sermon Notes: "Following in the Master's Steps" (1 Timothy 3.1-13)**

1. The Character and Work of Overseers (vv. 1-7)

2. The Character and Work of Deacons (vv. 8-13)

## Prayer Concerns

*Rev. Andrew Allen:* Pray the treatment Andrew is receiving continues to show good results, that it has an arresting effect on the cancer, and that he and Amy are kept in God's peace.

*The Christian Aid Center* cares for many in our community who are hurting and in need. Pray that God continues to use its staff and volunteers to convey his love and grace to many.

*Christ Central Presbyterian Church:* Pray for Rev. Greg Joines, our church-planter in Corvallis, for strength and blessing as he gives himself to the city and the church he is planting.

*Easton Carpenter* (Nelson and Maddies's newborn) remains in the NICU at Kadlec Medical Center. Pray he continues to gain strength and is soon able to come home.

*Kristina Halvorson* is due May 26. Pray that her pregnancy continues to go well, and that she knows God's strength during this last month.

*Mike Leinweber* (Chad's dad) continues to decline. Pray he is spared unnecessary pain, and that God surrounds the family, especially Betty, with his peace.

*The Pacific Northwest Presbytery* meets this Thursday and Friday at Christ Church Bellingham. Pray for travel mercies for the ministers and elders attending, and that their work honors God and is a blessing to the Church. Pastor Ron, Elder Eric Carpenter, and Ronnie Curfman will be attending.

## Announcements

*Birthdays & Anniversaries this Week:*

May 14	Colton Chabre
May 14	Loren and Janice Vander Griend
May 16	Laura Chabre

*Christian Aid Dinner:* We are serving dinner at the Christian Aid Center tomorrow evening. If you would like to help, either in preparing or serving the meal, please let Heidi Leinweber know.

*Emily Ann Bachand*, of the Sacred Road team, is in need of financial and prayer support. If you would like to learn more about her ministry and needs, there is information on the literature table.

*Financial Update:* The April financial statement has been posted to the website, on the Members page. If you need the password, Jacob Schroeder would be happy to give it to you.

### Explanation of the Cover Symbol

The Shield of the Holy Trinity is frequently found in stained glass windows of medieval churches. This emblem expresses the Christian doctrine of the triunity of Almighty God, a truth taught in Scripture and affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.