



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Jackson, Tennessee

The Lord's Day

March 17, 2024

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

March 17, 2024

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Psalm 103:15-18

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

SILENT PRAYER

GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

† SALUTATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And, also, with you!

Bless the LORD O my soul,

Psalm 103:1-2

And all that is within me,

Bless His Holy Name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

† CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 103:19-22

The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word! Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will! Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 76: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"
Amen!

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 103:8-14

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
 He will not always chide,
nor will He keep His anger forever.
 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;
 As far as the east is from the west,
so far does He remove our transgressions from us.
 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.
 For He knows our frame;
He remembers that we are dust.

CORPORATE CONFESSION (congregation kneels as able)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you, our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

[Silent prayer of personal confession] **Amen.**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

† **GLORIA PATRI** (with hands lifted)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

†* **HYMN OF PRAISE: "Before the Throne of God Above"** (printed in bulletin on page 9)
Amen!

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Numbers 6:22-27

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

EPISTLE READING: Revelation 22:1-13

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:20-30

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Praise be to you, O Christ!

† **Psalm 143:** (Tune: Aurelia, "The Church's One Foundation")

**Because I trust in th-ee, O Lord, cause me to hear
Thy loving-kindness fr-ee, When morning doth appear:
Cause me to know the w-ay wherein my path should be;
For why, my soul on hi-gh I do lift up to thee.**

**From my fierce enem-y in safety do me guide,
Because I flee to th-ee, Lord, that thou may'st me hide.
My God alone art th-ou, teach me thy righteousness:
Thy Sp'rit's good, lead me t-o the land of uprightness.**

**O Lord, for thy name's sa-ke, be pleas'd to quicken me;
And, for thy truth, forth ta-ke my soul from misery.
And of thy grace destro-y my foes, and put to shame
All who my soul anno-y; for I thy servant am.**

Amen!

READING OF GOD'S WORD: Romans 12:1-2

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

What is Worship? Shalom from Creation to New Creation

† CONFESSIOIN OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty

**Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

by whom all things were made;

who for us and for our salvation

came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered and was buried;

and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

and He shall come again, with glory,

to judge both the living and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together

is worshiped and glorified;

who spoke by the prophets;

and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church;

we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

and we look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**catholic=universal*

† PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND 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.**

OFFERTORY

† DOXOLOGY (with hands lifted)

**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**

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE

† SURSUM CORDA

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and good, and a joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and arch angels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing ...

† SANCTUS

Sung in unison

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts Heav'n and earth are full__of your Glo - ry. Ho

san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he__ who_ comes__

in__ the name of the Lord our God. Ho - san - na, ho-san-na in the High - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND MEMORIAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ

Communion Song: Hymn No. 103: "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

v. 1 and 2

Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ

Communion Song: Hymn No. 103: "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

v. 3 and 4

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN OF RESPONSE, NO. 642: “Be Thou My Vision”

Amen!

† BENEDECTION: Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

† THREE-FOLD AMEN

† POSTLUDE

† Congregation stands, if able

* Seating for latecomers at this time

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SERMON NOTES:

Before the Throne

Before the Throne, LMD

$\text{♩} = 90$

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect plea, a great High
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me of my guilt with - in, up - ward I
 3. Be - hold him there the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less right - eous - ness, the great un -

Priest whose name is love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is grav - en on his
 look and see him there, who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior
 - change - a - ble I AM, the King of Glo - ry and of Grace. One with him - self I can - not

hands; my name is writ - ten on his heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can
 died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed free, for God, the Just, is sat - is - fied to look on
 die, my soul is pur - chased by his blood, my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
 Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

Text: Charitie Lees Bancroft

Tune: Vikki Cook; arr by Andrew Gordon, 1969-

