

The Lord's Service

The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 20, 2025



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

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!

† **CALL TO WORSHIP:** Psalm 115:1-3

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

†* **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 311:** “Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

† **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

† Congregation stands, if able | * Seating for latecomers at this time | All Scripture readings are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Assistive listening devices are available for use during worship services. Please inquire at the sound booth.

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: Colossians 1:21-23

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven ...

CORPORATE CONFESSION (kneel as able)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

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

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE PEACE

† 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.**

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 308: "Jesus Paid It All"

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Esther 1:1-22

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Revelation 13:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

† PSALM 36, NO. 60 “Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord”

† GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:20-30

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD

The Emperor’s Clothes

† CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC MEDITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ

Communion Meditation Silence

Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ

Communion Song, NO. 420: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 128: "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"**

† **BENEDICTION: Revelation 1:4b-5a**

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ
the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on
earth. **Amen.**

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE:**

NOTES:

1. The King (vv. 1-8)

2. The Queen (vv. 9-12)

3. The Edict (vv. 13-22)

Psalm 36 — How Precious Is Your Steadfast Love

To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the LORD.

Transgression speaks to the wicked
 deep in his heart;
there is no fear of God
 before his eyes.

²For he flatters himself in his own eyes
 that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

³The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit;
 he has ceased to act wisely and do good.

⁴He plots trouble while on his bed;
 he sets himself in a way that is not good;
 he does not reject evil.

⁵Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
 your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
 your judgments are like the great deep;
 man and beast you save, O LORD.

⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
 The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸They feast on the abundance of your house,
 and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹*For with you is the fountain of life;
 in your light do we see light.*

¹⁰Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
 and your righteousness to the upright of heart!

¹¹Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me,
 nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

¹²There the evildoers lie fallen;
 they are thrust down, unable to rise.