

The Lord's Service

The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 27, 2025



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Psalm 5:1-8

Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

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 24:1; Malachi 1:11

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ... For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 296: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

† 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: Psalm 14:1-3

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

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. 73: "Rejoice, All People, Homage Give"**

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Esther 2:1-23

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

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 18:9-14

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD

Beauty and the Beast

† 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. 75: "O Father, You Are Sovereign"**

† **BENEDICTION: Numbers 6:24-26**

The LORD bless you and keep you;

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

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**

NOTES:

1. The Pageant (vv. 1-7)

2. The Promotion (vv. 8-20)

3. The Plot (vv. 21-23)

Overview of the Book of Esther

Theme: Providence and Deliverance

Summary: Esther is the account of a Jewish woman who becomes queen of Persia and courageously saves her people from annihilation. Through divine providence and her cousin Mordecai's guidance, Esther exposes the wicked plot of Haman, the king's advisor. This revelation leads to Haman's downfall and the Jews' deliverance, celebrated annually as Purim.

Title and Author: The book is named after Esther, a Jewish woman who later becomes queen of Persia. Its authorship is attributed by some to Mordecai, Esther's cousin and guardian, although the text itself does not specify an author. Scholars often suggest that Mordecai had the knowledge and motivation to document these events.

Historical Context: The events of Esther occur during the reign of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes I) of Persia, around 486-465 BC. This was a time when the Jewish people lived in exile, scattered throughout the Persian Empire following the Babylonian captivity. The narrative unfolds in the Persian capital of Susa, providing a glimpse into the life of Jews in the diaspora.

Audience and Purpose: This account was written for the Jewish community in Persia and Jerusalem, highlighting God's providence and protection. It records the origins of Purim, celebrates the deliverance of the Jews from annihilation, and demonstrates God's sovereignty and faithfulness in preserving His people.

Genre and Style: Esther is a historical narrative with elements of drama and irony. It is written in a straightforward, chronological style, with a focus on dialogue and character development.

Key People

1. **King Ahasuerus (Xerxes)** (Esther 1:1) - The Persian king who rules over 127 provinces from India to Cush. He is known for his opulent banquets and plays a central role in the events of the book.
2. **Queen Vashti** (Esther 1:9) - The queen of Persia who is deposed for refusing to appear before King Ahasuerus during a banquet, setting the stage for Esther's rise.
3. **Mordecai** (Esther 2:5) - A Jewish man from the tribe of Benjamin, living in Susa. He is Esther's cousin and adoptive father, and plays a crucial role in uncovering a plot against the king and in the salvation of the Jewish people.
4. **Esther (Hadassah)** (Esther 2:7) - A Jewish orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai, who becomes queen of Persia. Her bravery and wisdom are pivotal in saving her people from destruction.
5. **Hegai** (Esther 2:8) - The king's eunuch in charge of the harem. He is responsible for preparing the women, including Esther, for their presentation to the king.
6. **Haman** (Esther 3:1) - An Agagite and high-ranking official in King Ahasuerus's court. He becomes the main antagonist, plotting to annihilate the Jews in the empire.

(taken from www.biblehub.com)