

The Lord's Service

The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 17, 2025



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Hebrews 2:8b-9

... Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

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 148:13-14

Let them praise the name of the LORD for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

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

† 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: Hebrews 4:14-16

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. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 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.

CORPORATE CONFESSION: (kneel as able)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name.

[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. 644: "May the Mind of Christ My Savior"**

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: **Esther 4:1-17** (sermon text)

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: **Philippians 2:5-11**

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

† **PSALM 148, NO. 110: "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"**

† **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:20-28**

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

God Save the Queen

† **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: "In Christ Alone" (printed on pages 8 and 9)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 579: "Dare to Be a Daniel!"**

† **BENEDICTION: Hebrews 13:20-21**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**

NOTES:

1. The Cries (vv. 1-5)

2. The Charge (vv. 6-11)

3. The Courage (vv. 12-17)

In Christ Alone

(as published by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

VERSE

♩ = 60

A^b

E^b

A^b

B^b

E^b/G

A^b

E^b/G

Fm7

A^b/B^b



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my
 2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
 3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in



4 Eb Ab Eb Ab Bb Eb/G Ab Eb/G Fm7 Ab/Bb

song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and
 babe! This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones He came to
 slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious Day, up from the grave He rose a -
 me; From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -

8 Eb Eb/G Ab Eb/G Bbsus Bb Eb/G Ab Cm7

storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
 save. Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
 gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

12 Bbsus Bb Ab Eb Ab Bb Eb/G Ab Eb/G Fm7 Ab/Bb Eb

cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
 fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.
 me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

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