

# The Lord's Service

The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025



**COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

**Post Tenebras Lux**

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: 1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

### 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 9:1-2

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

### †\* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 38: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

### † PRAYER OF ADORATION

## GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

**CALL TO CONFESSION:** Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

**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. 172: "Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"**

## GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Esther 5:1-14 (sermon text)

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

#### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Peter 3:18-22

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

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

† GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:1-13

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

### PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

#### Strategic Patience

† 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. 108: "Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right"****† BENEDICTION: 1 Peter 5:10-11**

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**† THREE-FOLD AMEN****† POSTLUDE**

## NOTES:

1. Esther's Wisdom (vv. 1-8)

2. Haman's Folly (vv. 9-14)

### In Christ Alone

(as published by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Words and Music by  
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

#### VERSE

$\text{♩} = 60$        $A^b$        $E^b$        $A^b$        $B^b$        $E^b/G$        $A^b$        $E^b/G$        $Fm7$        $A^b/B^b$

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!

CCLI Song # 3350395

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