

The Lord's Service

The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 31, 2025



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Matthew 6:25-30

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

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 90:1-2; 12-14

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ... So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

+* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 30: “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

+ PRAYER OF ADORATION

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: Luke 9:23

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ...”

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. 499: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”**

† 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 CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Esther 6:1-14 (sermon text)

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 4:13-25

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

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

† GOSPEL READING: Luke 9:23-27

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

Sleepless in Susa

† 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. 131: "Children of the Heavenly Father"**

† **BENEDICTION: Ephesians 3:20-21**

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**

NOTES:

1. Sleeplessness (vv. 1-5)

2. Honor (vv. 6-11)

3. Downfall (vv. 12-13)

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!

CCLI Song # 3350395

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