

# The Lord's Service

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 21, 2025



**COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

**Post Tenebras Lux**

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Galatians 3:11-14

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through 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 72: 18-19

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.  
Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with  
his glory! Amen and Amen!

### †\* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 2: “O Worship the King”

### † 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 51:7-12

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

### CORPORATE CONFESSION: (kneel as able)

**Eternal God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.**

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

† **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

† **THE PEACE**

### The Sacrament of Baptism

† **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. 296: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"**

## GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Esther 8:1-17** (sermon text)

The grass withers, the flower fades,

**But the Word of our God will stand forever!**

*Isaiah 40:8*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 10:19-25**

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

† **PSALM 63, NO. 663: "O God Eternal, You Are My God!"**

† **GOSPEL READING: John 10:7-18**

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

### PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

#### Reversing the Irreversible

1. The Exaltation (vv. 1-2)

2. The Edict (vv. 3-14)

3. The Exultation (vv. 15-17)

† **CONFESSION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty  
 Maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
 God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
 begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
 by whom all things were made;  
 who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
 and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
 He suffered and was buried;  
 and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,  
 and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the  
 Father; and He shall come again, with glory,  
 to judge both the living and the dead;  
 whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
 glorified; who spoke by the prophets;  
 and we believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church;  
 we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
 and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.    *\*catholic=universal*

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

**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

## 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.

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE 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.**

**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. 427 "Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands" (printed on page 8)**

**PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD**

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 310: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"**

† **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.**

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**

# Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands

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*Jesus came and stood among them and said .... "Put your finger here; see my hands."*  
John 20:26, 27

Capo 3: ♮ (D) (A) (D) (Em) (B) (Em) (D) (A) (D) 7

1. A - midst us our Be - lov - ed stands, and bids us  
 2. What food lux - u - rious loads the board, when at his  
 3. If now, with eyes de - filed and dim, we see the  
 4. O glo - rious Bride - groom of our hearts, your pres - ent

(G) (D) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) (A) (D) (A) (D) (Em) (B)

view his pierc - ed hands; points to the wound - ed  
 ta - ble sits the Lord! The wine how rich, the  
 signs, but see not him; O may his love the  
 smile a heav'n im - parts! O lift the veil, if

(Em) (D) (A) (D) ♮ (A<sup>7</sup>) (Bm) (Em<sup>7</sup>) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) 7

feet and side, blest em - blems of the Cru - ci - fied.  
 bread how sweet, when Je - sus deigns the guests to meet!  
 scales dis - place, and bid us see him face to face!  
 veil there be, let ev - ery saint your glo - ry see!



Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd

Gracious savior, gentle shepherd,  
Our little ones are dear to thee;  
Gathered with thine arms and carried  
In thy bosom may they be  
Sweetly, gently, safely tended, from all want  
And danger free.

Tender Shepherd, never leave them,  
From thy fold to go a -stray;  
By thy look of love directed,  
May they walk the narrow way;  
Thus direct them,  
And protect them,  
Lest they fall an easy prey.

Let thy holy word instruct them:  
Fill their minds with heavenly light;  
Let thy love and grace constrain them  
To approve what e'er is right,  
Take thine easy yoke and wear it,  
And to prove thy burden light.

Cleanse their hearts from sinful folly  
In the stream thy love supplied;  
Mingled streams of blood and water  
Flowing from thy wounded side:  
And to heavenly pastures lead them,  
Where thy own still waters glide.