

# The Lord's Service

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The Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026



**COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

**Post Tenebras Lux**

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: 1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

### 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 27:1, 4-5

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ... One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

### †\* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 92: "A Mighty Fortress in Our God"

### † 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:** 1 Peter 4:1-5

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

**CORPORATE CONFESSION:** (kneel as able)

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We fail to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, we ignore your call to discipleship. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn. Forgive us, God of mercy! Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant, given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**  
[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, amen.**

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 527: "The Beatitudes"** (vv. 5-8)

## GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Isaiah 53:1-9

The grass withers, the flower fades,

**But the Word of our God will stand forever!**     *Isaiah 40:8*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** 1 Peter 2:18-25

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

† **PSALM 22, NO. 368:** "The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear"

† **GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 5:1-12 (sermon text)

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

### PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD:

#### Blessed Are the Persecuted

1. Persecution

2. Joy

† **CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Romans 12

By the mercies of God, present your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
**holy and acceptable to God, which is our fitting service.**

Do not be conformed to this age

**but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.**

That by testing you may discern what is the will of God,

**what is good and acceptable and mature.**

Let no one think of himself more highly than he ought,

**but think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith God has provided.**

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;

**Hold fast to what is good.**

Love one another with brotherly affection.

**Outdo one another in showing honor.**

Do not be slothful in zeal.

**Be fervent in the Spirit, serving the Lord.**

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation.

**Be constant in prayer.**

Contribute to the needs of the saints,

**and seek to show hospitality.**

Bless those who persecute you.

**Bless and do not curse them.**

Rejoice with those who rejoice.

**Weep with those who weep.**

Live in harmony with one another; Do not be haughty,

**but associate with the lowly and never be conceited.**

Repay no one evil for evil,

**but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.**

Beloved, never avenge yourselves,

**but give place to the wrath of God.**

For it stands written:

**“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”**

To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him;

**If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.**

For by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head.”

**Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.**

#### 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: "In Christ Alone" (printed on back page)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

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

† HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 570 "Faith of Our Fathers!"

† BENEDICTION: Jude 24-25

Now may the One who is able, keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

† THREE-FOLD AMEN

† POSTLUDE

## **In Christ Alone**

### **Verse 1**

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

### **Verse 2**

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

### **Verse 3**

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

### **Verse 4**

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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