

The Lord's Service

The Ascension of the Lord

May 17, 2026



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Hebrews 9:22-24

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

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: 1 Peter 3:21-22

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 289: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

† 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 1:3-4

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

CORPORATE CONFESSION: (kneel as able)

**Almighty God,
You have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule
in our lives. We have followed the ways of the world, and failed to give
him glory. Pardon the guilt of our sin, and liberate us from its power, that
we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the ascended ruler of all, the great Head and King of the church,
in whose name we pray.**

[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. 290: "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"**

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:1-11

The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:1-4 (sermon text)

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

† **PSALM 24, NO. 198:** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!"

† **GOSPEL READING:** Luke 24:44-53

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD:

The Seeker Friendly Ascension

Introduction: The Already—Not Yet

1. Why?

2. When?

3. What?

4. How?

5. Who?

† **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

9
san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he_ who_ comes_

17
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. 420: "We Will Feast in the House of Zion"
(printed on back page)**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 295 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

† **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**

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Words and Music by
Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

CHORUS

F Dm7 B \flat F Dm C B \flat

$\text{♩} = 71$

We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our

Gm C F Dm7 B \flat F Dm C B \flat

4

hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - geth - er. We will feast and

VERSE

C F *Fine* B \flat Dm

8

weep no more. We will not be burned by the fire; He
In the dark of night, be - fore the dawn, my

B \flat C Dm B \flat Dm

13

is the Lord, our God. We are not con - sumed by the flood; up -
soul, be not a - fraid. For the prom - ised morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh,

B \flat C Dm C/E

17

- held, pro - tect - ed, gath - ered up.
God of Ja - cob, be my strength.