

The Lord's Service

The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

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: Revelation 7:13-17

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "Therefore they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

† 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.

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 544: "How Bright These Glorious Spirits Shine!"

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: 1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

CORPORATE CONFESSION: (kneel as able)

Almighty and merciful God,

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 there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble 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, amen.

† HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 545: "When This Passing World Is Done"

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 34:29-35; Isaiah 51:11

The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

† **PSALM 47, NO. 73:** “Rejoice, All People, Homage Give”

† **GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Matthew 13:43 is the sermon text

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD:

Glorious Promises for the Future

† **CONFESSION OF FAITH: Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 90. What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?

A. The day of judgment, the righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds, shall be set on his right hand, and there openly acknowledged and acquitted, shall join with him in the judging of reprobate angels and men, and shall be received into heaven, where they shall be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery; filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints and holy angels, but especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. And this is the perfect and full communion, which the members of the invisible Church shall enjoy with Christ in glory, at the resurrection and day of judgment.

1 Thess. 4:17; Matt. 25:33; Matt. 10:32; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; Matt. 25:34, 46; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 14:13; Ps. 16:11; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 4:17-18.

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.

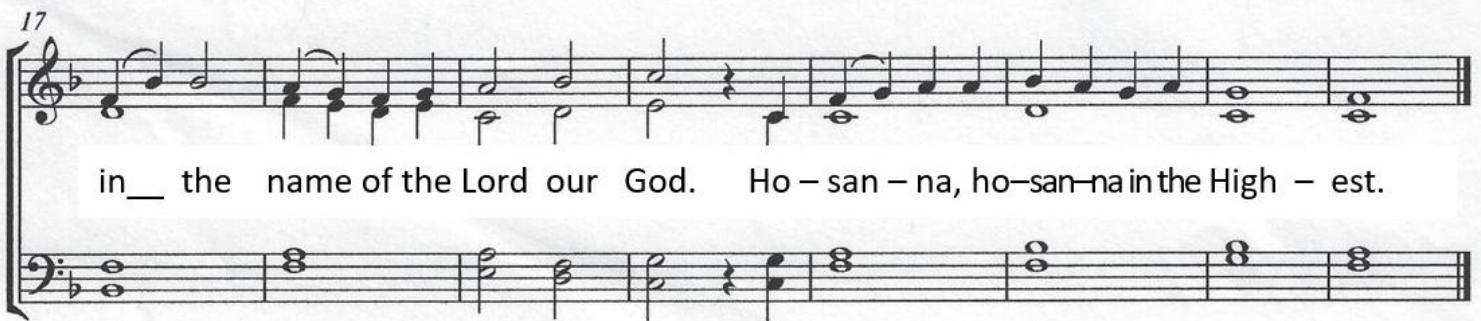
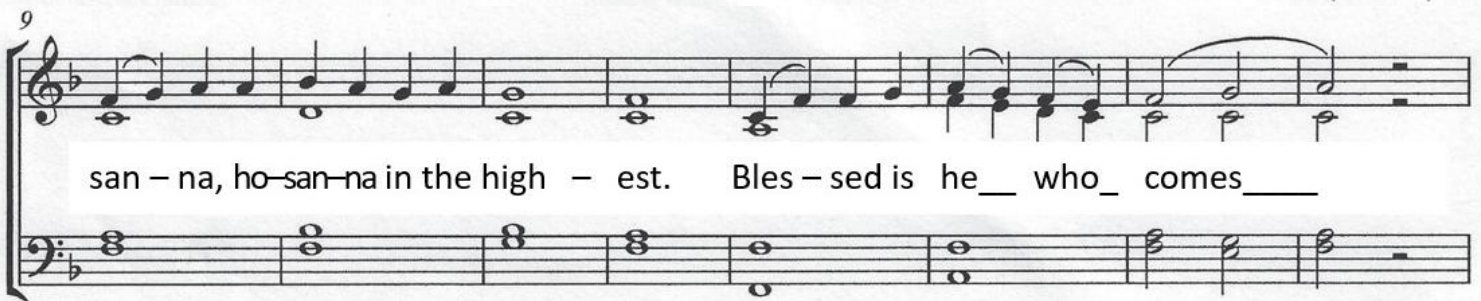
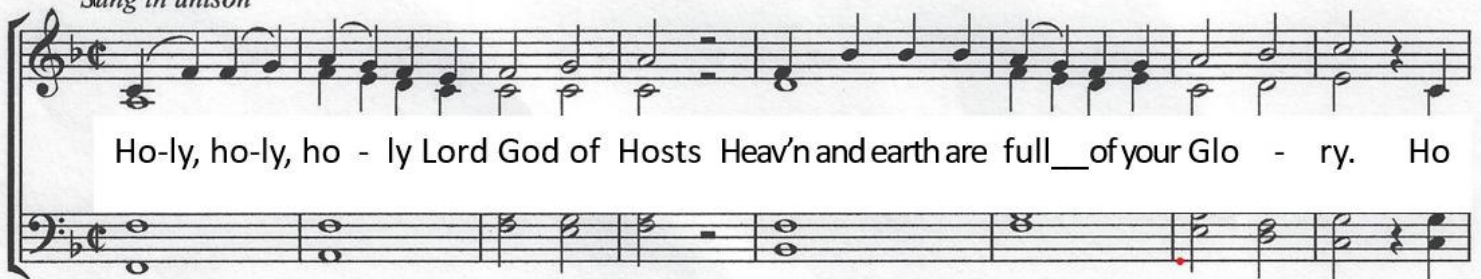
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



† **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 pages 8-9)**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 546 "The Sands of Time Are Sinking"**

† **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**

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

E^b

A^b

E^b

A^b

B^b

E^b/G

A^b

E^b/G

Fm7

A^b/B^b



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 -



In Christ Alone - 2

E^b

E^b/G

A^b

E^b/G

B^bsus B^b

E^b/G

A^b

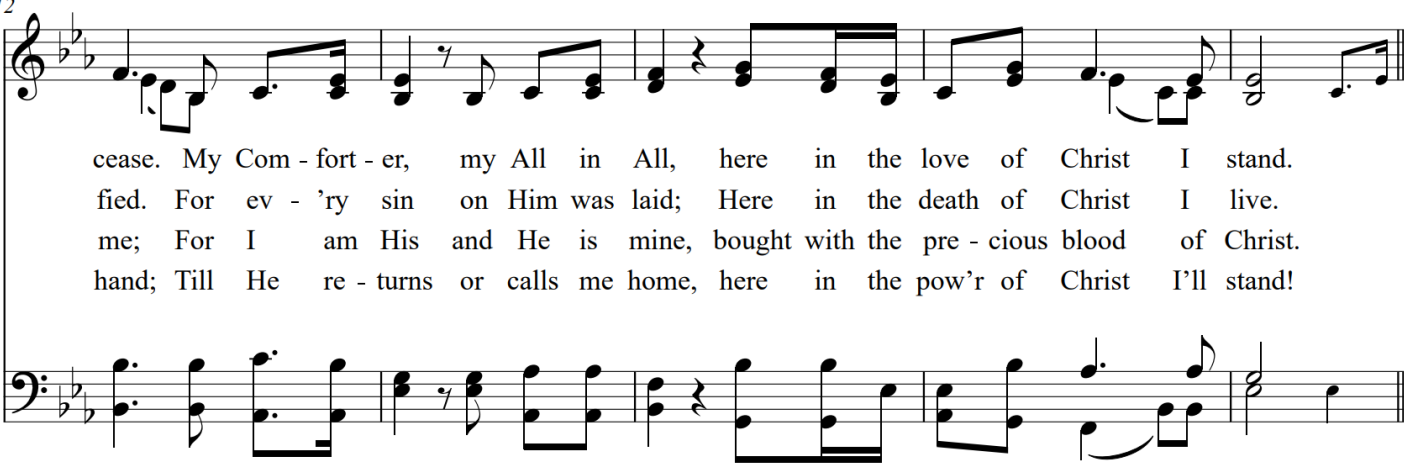
Cm7



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 B^bsus B^b A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b/G A^b E^b/G Fm7 A^b/B^b E^b



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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