



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

The Sunday after Ascension Day

— May 16, 2021 —

Words for Reflection

There is now a man, a real man with our flesh and blood, our experiences of the world, our humanity, in heaven. For all Christ's heavenly majesty, seated on the throne, he is not now aloof from believers and unconcerned. He knows, and loves, and intercedes for his own.

— Michael Reeves

Ascension means the church is the kind of institution that is simultaneously drawn upward in worship and pushed outward in mission...The church does not have to choose whether it will be defined by the depth of its worship life or its faithfulness in mission. Both acts flow from the single reality of ascension. Both have integrity only in that they are connected to one another. Mission is the church's response to the universal lordship of Jesus. When people respond to the gospel—whether through faith and repentance or by bringing every area of life under the lordship of Christ—worship happens.

— Chris Ganski

There is tremendous relief in knowing that God's love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself.

— J. I. Packer

In Christ's death, God is confronting our dark thoughts of him and our chronic insistence that divine love must have an endpoint, a limit, a point at which it finally runs dry. Christ died to confound our intuitive assumptions that divine love has an expiration date.

— Dane Ortlund

The Call to Worship

God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises!

Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

—Psalm 47:5-7 ESV

Hymn of Praise I To Christ the Lord

We sing praises to God and proclaim through song the good news of what He has done in Jesus' death and resurrection. Some songs might be initially unfamiliar, but we believe the rich, true, beautiful words of these hymns will make their way into your heart.

To Christ the Lord let every tongue,
Its noblest tribute bring.
When He's the subject of the song
Who can refuse to sing?
Survey the beauties of His face,
And on His glories dwell,
Think of the wonder of His grace
And all His triumphs tell.

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned,
Upon His awful brow.
His head with radiant glories crowned,
His lips with grace overflow;
No mortal man can with Him compare,
Among the sons of men,
Fairer He is than all the fair
That fill the Heavenly train.

He saw me plunged in deep distress,
He fled to my relief.
For me He bore the shameful cross,
And carried all my grief;
His hand a thousand blessings pours,
Upon my guilty head,
His presence gilds my darkest hours
And guards my sleeping bed.

Since from His bounty I receive
Such proofs of love divine,
Had I a thousand hearts to give
Lord, they would all be Thine;
A thousand men could not compose
A worthy song to bring,
Yet Your love is a melody
Our hearts can't help but sing!

Words: Laura Taylor, Samuel Stennett; Music: Laura Taylor

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

We ask for God to be present among us and conclude with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Doxology

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.

Confession of Sin

We fight the temptation to hide our sin and instead acknowledge it openly to God, but we do so in light of the grace offered in Jesus.

Almighty God,
You have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. Yet, we confess that there are places in our hearts where we stubbornly resist his rule. We often attempt to exert ultimate control over our lives and circumstances rather than bowing the knee to him as the True King. Forgive us and deliver us from our sins. By Your Spirit, make us a people who bear witness to Your Son to the ends of the earth. We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

God reminds our forgetful hearts of the grace that is ours in Jesus.

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

—Romans 8:33-34 ESV

Hymn of Response | Before the Throne of God Above

We respond in thanks and praise for God's redemptive work in Christ.

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea.
A great High Priest whose Name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace,
One with Himself I cannot die.
My soul is purchased by His blood,
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God!

Words: Charitie Bancroft
Music: Vicki Cook

Confession of Faith | The Heidelberg Catechism #49

We join the church in history by confessing this basic statement of what Christians believe.

Q. How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

A. First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge. By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

The Old Testament Reading

God speaks to us through His Word.

Genesis 22:1-18

22:1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw

the place from afar. **5** Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." **6** And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. **7** And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" **8** Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. **10** Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. **11** But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." **12** He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." **13** And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven **16** and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, **18** and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Offering

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God. You may give online at www.trinitypresfw.org/give or through the Church Center App.

The Prayers of the People

We lift up our requests to God knowing that He hears us when we pray.

Anna & Ben Gruber
MTW Munich, Germany

The Reading of the Word

Romans 8:31-39

God speaks to us through His Word.

8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

The Greatest Chapter
"A Love That Will Not Let You Go"

Sermon Notes

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. It's not a meal for good people. It's a meal for desperate people who trust in Jesus alone for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully with Jesus. You will be invited to come forward. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal today, we encourage you to spend this time in reflection or prayer.

Children who have not received their first communion are welcome to come forward with their families. We invite children who are ready to make a public profession of faith in Christ to arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become "communicants" at the Lord's Table.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts!
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:
People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah!
Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us. Hallelujah!
People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.
Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Hymn for Communion | Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
'Til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
I, helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone,

Support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want,
Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,

I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;

Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
For all eternity.

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Greg Thompson

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

We respond in faith and song.

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Words: George Matheson; Music: Christopher Miner

The Benediction

God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands to receive his blessing as we are sent out as participants in His mission to Fort Worth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom,
priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

—Revelation 1:5-6 ESV

The Sending

The people of God are sent into the world to love God, love people, and love Fort Worth.

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve Fort Worth and the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

* CCLI #5043663 – all songs used by permission

Announcements

Women's Summer Study

Ladies! Mark your calendars and invite your neighbors to join our summer study, "June with the Gentle Shepherd." Each Wednesday night in June, at 7pm, we will meet in backyards to hear from one of our Trinity women about how Jesus has been a Good Shepherd to her. Addresses will be announced in our weekly emails. Need a great book to read this summer? Order *Gentle & Lowly* by Dane Ortlund and read along with us!

Last YG Small Groups and Five Six

May 23 will be our last official meeting for YG Small Groups and Five Six. We plan to have some activities during the summer, so be on the lookout for that!

