



Order of Worship

May 13th, 2018



Ascension of the Lord Sunday

*This liturgy was written by the Rev. Dr. Scotty J. Williams
and was celebrated in St. Gallen, Switzerland at
All Souls Protestant Church which is now dissolved.*

LITURGY

May 13, 2018

Ascension of the Lord Sunday

PRELUDE

“God Himself Is With Us”

WELCOME

+ PRAYER OF APPROACH

Pastor: The Lord has ascended with a mighty shout!

People: To Him be the glory forever and ever!

Pastor: And the Lord has called us to His work!

People: To Him be the glory forever and ever!

Pastor: Look up no more, for He is gone!

People: To Him be the glory forever and ever!

Pastor: But one day He shall come again!

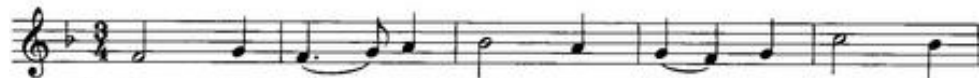
People: To Him be the glory forever and ever!

ALL: O Christ, Who has ascended and rules all things with power and might, though our eyes no longer see You we know that You are truly here. You are with us in the fellowship and love we show with thanks and praise. And You are with us at Your Table, through holy gifts of grace and truth. You are with us in Your holy Word, which offers us this promise: **I will never leave You nor forsake You, so do not be afraid.** Lord, thank You for Your presence as You reign on high. Alleluia! Alleluia! To You be the forever and ever!

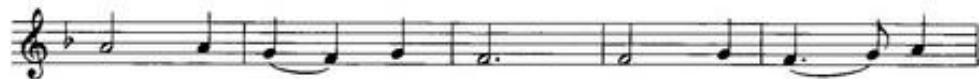
† SONG OF APPROACH

“Alleluia Sing To Jesus”

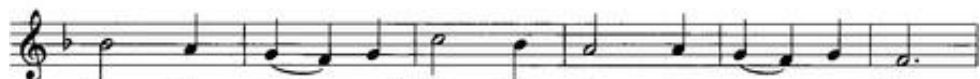
words by William C. Dix, 1866; music by Samuel Metzger, 2010



1. Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! His the
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans Are we
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of An - gels, Here on the
 4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, You the



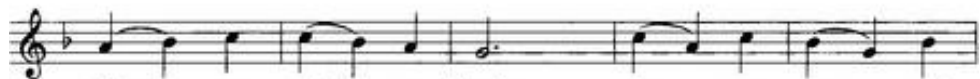
scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia!
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia!
 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia!



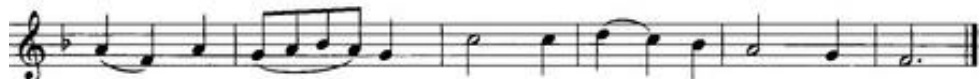
his the tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone;
 he is near us, Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how:
 here the sin - ful Flee to you from day to day:
 born of Mar - y, Earth your foot - stool, heav'n your throne:



Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him, When the
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, Earth's re -
 You, with - in the veil, have en - tered, Robed in



like a might - y flood; Je - sus out of
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
 deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of
 flesh, our great high priest; Here on earth both



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood.
 get his prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

† THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen.

† SONG OF ADORATION

“God Himself Is With Us”

words by Gerhardt Tersteegen, 1729; music by Joachim Neander, 1680

God Himself is with us; let us now adore Him,
 And with awe appear before Him.
 God is in His temple; all within keep silence,
 Prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
 Him alone do we own
 As our God and Savior;
 Praise His name forever.

God Himself is with us: hear the harps resounding!
 See the crowds the throne surrounding!
 "Holy, holy, holy," hear the hymn ascending,
 Angels, saints, their voices blending!
 Bow your ear to us here;
 Hear, O Christ, the praises
 That Your Church now raises.

Fount of every blessing, purify my spirit;
 Trusting only in Your merit.
 Like the holy angels who behold Thy glory,
 May I ceaselessly adore You,
 And in all, great and small,
 Seek to do most nearly
 What You love so dearly.

† CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: O Christ, Who is always with us through Your Spirit, Table,
 and holy Word, we bring our sins before You saying....

ALL: Lord, we confess to You and to one another that we have missed
 the mark in serving You. We have not loved You with all our
 heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our
 neighbors as we love ourselves. We have not always had within
 us Your mind, and we have failed to show Your presence to the
 world. Lord, forgive us and free us from the power of sin, and
 renew in us Your grace and strength that we might live as
 children of God. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

(Confess in Silence)

† SONG OF CONFESSION

“Ubi Caritas”

words and music by Jacques Berthier, 1979

Ubi caritas et amor.

Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

(Translation: Where charity and love are, God is there.)

† CONFESSION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Brothers and Sisters, our God (Who is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love) loves us just as
 we are. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the
 Church of Jesus Christ, I declare to you the entire forgiveness
 of all of our sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous!
 Thanks be to God!

† CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

Pastor: Let us confess our faith together saying:

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth,
 And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 Born of the Virgin Mary,
 Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 Was crucified, died, and was buried;
 He descended to the dead;
 On the third day He rose again;
 He ascended into heaven,
 And He is seated at the right hand of the Father;
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic Church,
 The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

* The word *catholic* means “universal” or “for all people” (not the Roman Catholic Church).

† PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor: Friends, the peace of the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Pastor: Please take this time to offer the peace of Christ to those around you.

† SONG OF PEACE

“It Is Well With My Soul”

words by Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; music by Philip P. Bliss, 1876 (Indelible Grace)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well with my soul!

[CHORUS]

It is well (it is well)
 With my soul (with my soul)
 It is well, it is well with my soul!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
 Let this blessed assurance control,
 That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

[CHORUS]

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
 My sin, not in part but the whole,
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

[CHORUS]

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
 The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
 Even so, it is well with my soul.

[CHORUS]

† OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 2:8-15 (ESV)

Elijah Taken Up To Heaven

Lector: Children of God and friends of Christ, hear these words from the book of Second Kings:

⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the waters of the river Jordan with it. And the water divided to the right and to the left, and he and Elisha crossed over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. ¹⁰ “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

¹¹ And as they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

¹³ Then Elisha picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. “Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” he asked. And when he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over. ¹⁵ Then the company of prophets from Jericho, who were watching said, “The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.” And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Lector: This is the Word of God for you, the people of God!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

† NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 1:3-11 (ESV)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit/The Ascension

Pastor: And now friends, a reading from the book of Acts.
Listen and hear the Word of God:

³ Then Jesus presented Himself alive to the Disciples after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the Kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, “**You heard from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “**It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**” ⁹ And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Pastor: This too is the Word of God for you, the people of God!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Scotty J. Williams

WORSHIP IN GIVING

If you are our guest today, please feel under no compulsion to give, but if you choose to give we thank you and pray that you are blessed.

† DOXOLOGY *words by Thomas Ken, 1674; music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551*

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
 here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

† INVITATION TO THANKSGIVING (Eucharist)

Pastor: In the ancient Church a greeting was given at the breaking of bread, and like those before us I greet you with the joy of God. Friends, 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.

Pastor: Let us pray...It is our duty and delight that we should
 (Chant) everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to You, O God, through Jesus Christ, Who calls us to follow His way of humble service and love. And so with the Church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn....

† SANCTUS *words by Reginald Heber, 1826; music by John B. Dykes 1861*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 All, Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth, and sky, and sea;
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and Might - y!
 God in three Per - sons bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

† WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INSTRUCTION

Pastor: On the night He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take this and eat of it; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me until I come again.”

And in the same way, after supper, He also took the cup, and said, “Take this and drink of it; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.”

Gracious Father, we thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Christ, Who gave His life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send down Your Holy Spirit upon these Your gifts of bread and wine that they might be for us His body and His blood. Amen.

Friends, in the breaking of His body, Christ received our brokenness and gave us the blessings of heaven. Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of faith in Him.

ALL: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Pastor: Behold the gifts of God for you, the people of God. Let us keep the feast!

DISTRIBUTION

We welcome all baptized Christians and those who wish to follow Jesus to come to the Table and receive Communion. We take the elements by *intinction* or dipping the bread into the cup, so once you receive the bread please hold on to it that you might dip it into the cup. To ensure that all can partake our bread is gluten-free, and we use grape juice.

† SONG OF THANKSGIVING

“As The Grains Of Wheat”
words and music by Marty Haugen, 1990

**ALL: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread
So may all Your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in You.**

Cantor: As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
May we share the blessings of Your love.

**ALL: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread
So may all Your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in You.**

Cantor: Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come,
When all creation share’s this feast with You.

**ALL: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread
So may all Your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in You.**

† PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Friends, as we prepare to leave this place of rest and go back into a restless world, let us pray with all of our hearts, souls, and minds saying; Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Everlasting God, the Ascension of Your Son was a call to Your people to carry on His mission of love. May we do the works He did among us, and greater works, till He comes again. And may the world see His presence in us, though He sits and reigns in heaven above. Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Creator God, help the people of this world to make the best use of the resources You have provided through it. And protect all those who are in distress, from trafficking and poverty to sicknesses and war. Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father God, Your Son remained with His disciples after His resurrection, and He taught them to love all people as neighbors instead of enemies. Thank You for our families, friends, and fellow believers, and we thank You for our brothers and sisters at *Round Hill Community Church*. And we also thank You for our Landeskirche, Kirchenrat, Elders, and all the people who serve us that we might better serve You. Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Eternal God, we thank You for Your Table, where Christ (Who has ascended above) is present through Your Spirit and Word. Lord, open our eyes to see You acting in our lives, and open our hearts and minds to know what You have done for us. And as You open them, may we see and know what we must do, and may all the peoples of this world see Your hands at work in us. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, Whose glorious coming we await with joy, and Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forever. Amen.

† SONG OF SENDING “Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending”

words by Charles Wesley, 1758; music by Thomas Olivers, 1763

1. Lo! he comes with clouds de-scend-ing, once for fa-vored
2. To his love and sav-ing Pas-sion all our hap-pi-ty
3. Yea, A-men! let all a-dore thee, high on thine e-

1. sin-ners slain; thou-sand thou-sand saints at-tend-ing
2. ness we owe, par-don, ho-li-ness, sal-va-tion
3. ter-nal throne: Sav-ior, take the pow'r and glo-ry,

1. swell the tri-umph of his train. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-
2. heav'n a-bove and heav'n be-low. Grace and glo-ry, grace and
3. claim the king-dom for thine own. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

1. lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! God ap-pears, on earth to reign.
2. glo-ry, grace and glo-ry from that o-pen foun-tain flow.
3. lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a-lone!

† BENEDICTION

Gaelic Blessing

Pastor: May God the Father, Who made the waves to run,
 the air to flow, the earth to be still, and the stars to shine,
 give you the deep peace of God the Son.
 Jesus Christ, the Light of the world,
 Who lives, reigns, and works in us
 Through God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

† CONGREGATIONAL AMEN

Threefold (Danish) Amen

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The lyrics are 'A - men. A - men. A - men.' The melody in the treble staff begins with a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5), followed by another whole note chord (F4, A4, C5). The third measure contains a half note (F4) and a quarter note (A4), which are beamed together and then a quarter note (C5) and a half note (F4) are beamed together. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords: a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) in the first measure, a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) in the second measure, and a half note (F4) and a quarter note (A4) in the third measure, which are beamed together and then a quarter note (C5) and a half note (F4) are beamed together. The piece concludes with a double bar line.