

CHRIST
CHURCH

May 17, 2026

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor Michael Anderson

Silent meditation

Westminster Confession of Faith 28.1 - Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, not only for the solemn admission of the party baptized into the visible Church; but also to be unto him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of his ingrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of his giving up unto God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in the newness of life. Which sacrament is, by Christ's own appointment, to be continued in His Church until the end of the world.

G O D C A L L S U S T O W O R S H I P

Call to Worship

Psalm 117

Lucas Mooibroek

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD!

Litany for Ascension Sunday *congregation reads bold type*

Elder Christ has arisen from the grave!
People **He died and rose that we might have eternal life.**
Elder Christ has ascended to the Father!
People **He ascended that we might experience God's presence and power.**
Elder Today, we celebrate the ascension of our Lord.
People **Let us worship and glorify Christ the King.**

** Please rise in body and/or in spirit.*

*** Invocation**

Reading for Ascension Sunday Acts 1:1-11

Four readers from the congregation are needed for the following passage and have not been assigned. Anyone is welcome to read. Please go to a microphone or ask someone to bring you one.

- Reader 1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
- Reader 2 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
- Reader 3 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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 end of the earth.”
- Reader 4 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. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 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.”

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession Isaiah 53:6a

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way....

Prayer of confession *followed by a time of silent confession*

Declaration of Forgiveness Isaiah 53:3-6

He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

*** The Apostles' Creed**

spoken together

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come 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.

- 8:30 service* *On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 5- year-olds are invited to the foyer to join Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.*
- 11:15 service* *Church bags are available in the foyer for 4- to 5-year-olds who need some quiet activities during the sermon.*

* The Goodness of God

Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram
Ben Fielding and Brian Johnson



1. I love ___ you, Lord. ___
2. I love ___ your voice. ___

Oh, your
You have



mer - cy nev - er fails ___ me.
led me through the fire. ___

~ All ___ my days
In dark - est night,



___ I've been held in ___ your hands.
___ you are close like ___ no other -



___ er. From the mo - ment that I wake up un - til I lay
~ I've known you as a fa - ther, I've known you as



my head I ___ will sing ___ of the good - ness of God. ___
a friend. I ___ have lived ___ in the good - ness of God. ___

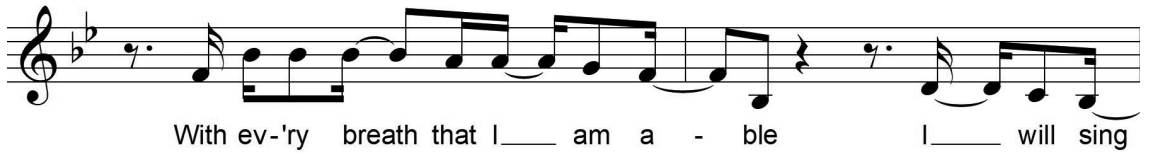
Chorus



All my life ___ you have been faith - ful.



All my life ___ you have been so, ___ so good.



With ev-'ry breath that I am a - ble I will sing



of the good - ness of God.

1st time to Vs 2
2nd time to Bridge


Bridge



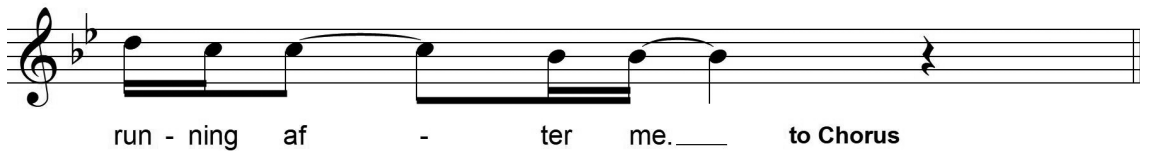
Your good-ness is run-ning af - ter, it's run-ning af - ter me.



With my life laid down, I'm sur-ren - dered now; I give



you ev - 'ry-thing. Your good-ness is run-ning af - ter, it's



run - ning af - ter me. to Chorus

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon

Cut Off No Longer

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

God Works out his Plan of Redemption

He Works through His Word and His People

Accomplished in the Work of Jesus

Further discussion/questions? andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org
Sermons are available online at www.christchurchgr.org

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

* *Baptized into Your Name Most Holy*

Trinity Hymnal 415

Reception of New Members (8:30 service)

Sam Poortenga & Hannah Atsma

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

Prayers of the People

During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (888) 793-1604

Offertory *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord* solo

text, Edmund Clowney
tune, Charles V. Stanford

Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord,
to search the mystery in heaven stored,
the knowledge of the Holy One adored? Alleluia!

One King alone, whose hands and heart are pure,
one Servant of the Lord with purpose sure,
can enter in that glory to endure. Alleluia!

He only can ascend to God's right hand
who first came down as his high mercy planned;
true God and man has earth and heaven spanned. Alleluia!

Before the clouds receive the King on high,
a cross lifts up his form against the sky;
the Framers of the worlds has come to die. Alleluia!

He shall ascend the mountain of the Lord,
the King of glory, whose own blood out-poured
paid that dear price that mercy did afford. Alleluia!

*** Gloria Patri**

Trinity Hymnal 735

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.

*** Benediction**

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward and play rhythm instruments as we sing our closing Amen song.

*** And All the People Said Amen!**

Matt Maher

And-all the peo-ple said "A-men" Oh _____ And all the peo-ple said "A-
men." Give thanks to the Lord for his love _____ ne-ver ends.
And all the peo-ple said "A-men."

Chords: D, A, D, G, D, A, G, D, F#, Bm, G, A, G, G/F#, G/E, D

*** Postlude**

Prayer Partners are available to pray with you right now. Come to the area by the organ with anything on your heart: praise, fears, questions, thanksgiving. We'll sit down and pray together.

Worship musicians

Emma Bukovietski, song leader
Susan Guerra, piano & organ

Cover Art

Lys Blakeslee

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

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After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Heb. 1:3

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore! Re -
 2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love; when
 3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n; the
 4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit, and
 5. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and

REFRAIN

joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 • keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n. Lift up your
 bow to his com - mand, and fall be - neath his feet.
 take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that ... we too may live a new life. Rom. 6:4

1. Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
 2. My lov - ing Fa - ther, me you've tak - en for - e'er to
 3. And I have vowed to fear and love you, and to o -
 4. My faith - ful God, your Word fails nev - er, your cov - 'nant

Son, and Ho - ly Ghost; I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
 be your child and heir; my faith - ful Sav - ior, me you've giv - en
 bey you, Lord, a - lone; be - cause the Ho - ly Spir - it moved me,
 sure - ly will a - bide; oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er,

a - mong your seed, your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
 your righ - teous, ho - ly life to share; O Ho - ly Spir - it,
 I dared to pledge my - self your own, re - nounc - ing sin to
 should I trans - gress it on my side! Though I have oft my

dead to sin: your Spir - it e'er shall live with - in.
 you will be a com - fort, guide, and help to me.
 keep the faith and war with e - vil un - to death.
 soul de - filed, in love for - give, re - store your child.

5. Yes, all I am and love most dearly
 I offer now, O Lord, to you.
 Oh, let me make my vows sincerely,
 and what I say, help me to do.
 Let naught within me, naught I own,
 serve any will but yours alone.

6. And never let my purpose falter,
 O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 but keep me faithful to your altar,
 till you shall call me from my post.
 So unto you I live and die
 and praise you evermore on high.