

**“Living In Between the Ascension and the Return of Christ”**  
**Austin Graduate School of Theology, Austin, TX – May 24, 2017**

Presenters: Dr. Mike Young, Dallas, TX and Scotty Harris, Montgomery, AL

**An Order of Worship for the Evening** (adapted from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979 ed., pp. 109-126)

Preface: Orientation by Mike Young

Optional Prelude: **Sanctus**, acappella recording by Milikin University Choir Ensemble

*(All stand, and the officiant greets the people with these words; italicized words spoken in unison)*

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

“It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus’ sake. For the same God who said, ‘Out of darkness let light shine,’ has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:5-6)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12.)

**Confession of Sin**

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us be still and silent, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy. (momentary silence)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Almighty and most merciful Father,*

*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 confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves;  
and there is no health in us.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
But You, O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Spare your people, O God, who confess their  
faults.  
Restore those that are repentant, according  
to your great and precious promises declared to all  
humanity in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful father, for Jesus' sake, that  
we may hereafter live a self-controlled, upright and godly  
life in this present world, to the glory of Your holy Name.  
Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*  
(momentary silence)

O God, make speed to save us.  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*  
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.*

**The Reading of Psalm 93 (Stan Reid, AGST President)**

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles (Ch. 1:1-11; Todd Hall, AGST Faculty)**

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

Congregational Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy (Woody Woodrow, all stanzas)

# Holy, Holy, Holy!

Words: Reginald Heber

Trinity

Music: John B. Dykes

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,  
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;  
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the crys - tal sea;  
Tho' the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see;  
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!  
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
On - ly Thou art ho - ly! there is none be - side Thee,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.  
Who wast, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

Please stand for the **Reading of the Gospel of Luke (Ch. 24:44-53; Daniel Napier, AGST Faculty)**

Brothers and Sisters, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

*Praise be to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Apostolic Confession** (the people stand)

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,*

*Creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.*

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.*

*He 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 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 universal church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,*

*hallowed by 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. Amen.  
(People may be seated)*

### **A Collect for the Presence of Christ**

Lord, it is night.  
The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.  
It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done.  
What has not been done has not been done.  
Let it be.  
The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of this world and of our own lives rest in You.  
The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.  
In your name we pray, *Amen.* (from the New Zealand Prayer Book)  
(momentary silence)

### **The General Thanksgiving**

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving ourselves up to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

(Concluding Announcement – Scotty Harris)

Congregational Hymn: Rise Up, O Men of God (Woody Woodrow, all stanzas)

**Benediction**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

# Rise Up, O Men of God

Words: William P. Merrill (Festal Song/Lift up) Music: William H. Walter

1. Rise up, O men of God! Have done with less - er things;  
2. Rise up, O men of God! His king - dom tar - ries long;  
3. Rise up, O men of God! The Church for you doth wait,  
4. Lift up the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod.

The first system of music consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a quarter rest, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The bass line begins with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, then a quarter rest, a quarter note B2, and a quarter note A2. The system concludes with a double bar line.

Give heart and mind and soul and strength To serve the King of kings.  
Bring in the day of broth-er - hood And end the night of wrong.  
Her strength un - e - qual to her task. Rise up, and make her great!  
As broth - ers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O men of God!

The second system of music continues the vocal and bass lines. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a quarter rest, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The bass line begins with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, then a quarter rest, a quarter note B2, and a quarter note A2. The system concludes with a double bar line.