

The Covenant Renewal Service

Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
314-843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



Easter Season

May 6, 2012

Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family. Join us downstairs for coffee after this morning's service.

We have **Christian education** classes for all ages meeting after the service at 11:00 AM. Children's Sunday school classes meet in the educational wing. The adult class meets in the fellowship hall at 11:00 AM to study Jonah & Micah with Pastor Meyers. Parish groups meet today so there will be no evening service tonight.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: www.providencestl.com.

The **Lord's Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine. (The grape juice has a darker color than the wine.)

Jesus Christ - Conqueror (*Front Cover*)



The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for **Jesus** (*IHCOYC*, a Latinized form of his Greek name) and **Christ** (*XRICTOC*). **NIKA** means Victor or Conqueror. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus now reigns *because* he died for us.

Today our Pulpit and Table paraments are **white**. White symbolizes the promise of the glorious transfiguration of our flesh because of the glorification of Jesus in his resurrection from the dead.

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — May 6, 2012

Easter Season

Preparation For Worship: Psalm 33

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

[Kneeling] Silent Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship: *Psalm 92:1-4*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

†Hymn #535 "How good it is to thank the Lord"

Trinity Hymnal

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Amen!

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

The righteous flourish like the palm tree

Psalm 92:12-15

And grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the house of Yahweh;

They flourish in the courts of our God.

They still bear fruit in old age;

They are ever full of sap and green,

To declare that Yahweh is upright;

He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have gathered in the Name of Jesus in response to the gracious call of your Spirit.

Grant that we might faithfully celebrate this morning with all the faithful in heaven and on earth the marriage feast of the Lamb. Graciously receive our worship and prayers, and strengthen us for service in your Son's kingdom. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age. Amen!

Purification

†Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, let us draw near to God our Father with an honest heart and confess our sins, asking him to forgive us for Christ's sake: [Congregation Kneels]

To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, *Daniel 9:7-10*
but to us open shame.

To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes,
and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness,
for we have rebelled against him

And we have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws,
which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

Most holy and merciful Father; I acknowledge and confess before you my sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all my shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often I have sinned in wandering from your way, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. But O Lord, have mercy on me, for I am ashamed and sorry for all wherein I have displeased you. Teach me to hate my errors, cleanse me from my secret faults, and forgive my sins for the sake of your dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father, help me, I pray, to live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandment of Jesus Christ my Lord. *Silent Prayer. Amen!*

†Pastor: Now stand up and hear the good news!

Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†Truly it is fitting and our greatest joy to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†The Sanctus

with vigor

ff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts! Hea-ven and earth are
 full of Your glo-ry! Ho - san - na in the High - est! Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

†Hymn of Praise: #11 “O that I had a thousand voices” *Trinity Hymnal*
 The First Reading: *Acts 25:13-27* Pastor Jeff Meyers

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The New Testament Reading: *1 John 4:1-11*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *John 15:1-8*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†We Confess our faith: The *Te Deum*

Anglo-Genevan Psalter

O God, we praise Thee, we acknowledge Thee as Lord.

Eternal Father, Thou art everywhere adored.

The cherubim and seraphim their homage show Thee:

“O Thou Lord God of hosts are holy, holy, holy!

Both heav’n and earth are filled with Thy majestic splendor.”

To Thee all angels loud and ceaseless praises render.

Thy prophets’ and apostles’ glorious company,

The martyrs robed in white—all sing their praise to Thee.

Thy holy catholic Church in worship stands before Thee,

Confessing Thee: the Father, infinite in glory;

Thy true and only Son, worthy of veneration;

The Holy Spirit, source of strength and consolation.

Thou, Christ, art King of glory, radiant is Thy throne;

Thou art the heav’nly Father’s everlasting Son.

Yet Thou didst not despise the virgin’s womb, O Savior,

When Thou didst take upon Thee mankind to deliver.

Thou has defeated death and Satan’s power infernal,

That all believers might inherit life eternal.

Thou art enthroned in glory at God's own right hand
Till Thou shalt come as judge and we before Thee stand.
We therefore pray Thee, grant Thy help to those who serve Thee,
Whom Thou hast with Thy blood redeemed in Thy great mercy.
With all Thy saints, O Lord, wilt Thou Thy servant number;
O save Thy people, Thy inheritance remember!

We bless Thee day by day, we praise thy holy Name;
Thy power and glory we from age to age acclaim.
Keep us from sin and lead us not into temptation.
Have mercy on us, Lord; hear Thou our supplication.
Let us be with Thy grace and steadfast love surrounded.
In Thee we've trusted; we shall never be confounded.

Latin text attributed to Nicetas, late 14th century.
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Sermon Text: *Acts 26:1-18*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Sermon: **WHAT EXPLAINS PAUL AND HIS ZEAL?**

LX. EXPOSITION OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Silent Meditation

The Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

†[Hands Raised] The Doxology

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

†Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us. God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that your holy Name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of your Word and the fervent love shown in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby your holy Name is borne by us in an empty and profane way. Lord in your mercy,

Congregation: **hear our prayer!**

May your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer!

Strengthen us by your Spirit according to your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to your good and gracious will. Into your merciful hands we commend our family and friends, indeed, all who are in need, praying for them at all times that your will be done. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer!

Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us to trust in you to provide for all our needs. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer!

Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in good conscience before you, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer!

Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his crafty schemes. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer!

And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer!

We trust, O Lord, in your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen!

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

Communion Hymn "Christ the Lord is risen today"

1 Cor. 15 : 57
Charles Wesley, 1739, cento

Orientis partibus
French melody, c. 1200, ad.

The musical score is presented on two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 4/4 time and G major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the lines of text.

1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to-day," Sons of men and an-gels say.
2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat-tle won.
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a-gain our glo-rious King; Where, O Death, is now thy sting?

Raise your joys and tri-umphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and, earth, reply.
 Lo, our Sun's e-clipse is o'er; Lo, He sets in blood no more.
 Death in vain for-bids His rise; Christ has o-pened Par-a - dise.
 Once He died our souls to save; Where thy vic-to - ry, O Grave? A-men.

5 Soar we now where Christ has led,
 Following our exalted Head.
 Made like Him, like Him we rise;
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

6 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
 Praise to Thee by both be given!
 Thee we greet triumphant now:
 Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Pastoral Benediction: "Now may the body and blood of our Lord. . ."

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): *Luke 2:30-32*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. 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.

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

Pastoral Prayer: O God, through the humble service of your Son you raised up the fallen world. Grant to your people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #604 "Jerusalem the golden"

Trinity Hymnal

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Postlude

Announcements

Nursery Volunteers:

See the nursery schedule on the WIC table and sign up for some slots!

The Whole Bible in a Year — Join us in the fellowship hall as we continue our Sunday school class that takes us through a summary of the books of the Bible. Today Pastor Meyers is teaching on Jonah & Micah.

Memory Listeners — will hear our Covenant children recite part one of their year end recitation during Sunday School today. Part two will be recited next Sunday.

Parish Groups — Parish groups will be meeting today. If you are new to the church or visiting, talk to Pastor Anderson to see which group you can join for the afternoon.

Ladies' Flower Arranging Class — Ladies, on May 7 join us for an evening of instruction on how to arrange flowers. The class will begin at 6:30 PM and will be lead by Crystal Schmidt and Denise Gerstung. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Bridal Shower — Ladies, join us for a bridal shower for Ellie Moore, daughter of Elder John and Brookie Moore, on May 17, at 7 PM at the home of Dottie Devlin (11299 #6 Manchester Rd. Kirkwood). Ellie is registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond, Williams-Sonoma and Sallie Home. Please see Barb Hoover if you would like to contribute to a group gift. Carpooling is encouraged, as parking space is limited. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the WIC table or during the adult Sunday school class. Please don't miss this opportunity to be there, blessing Ellie and her family, and to fellowship with one another!

Guys' Camp Out — This year's annual camping trip for all guys will be May 18-19 at the Keane's property in Mt. Sterling. The campout will last from Friday afternoon through Saturday at 2 PM. Come on out and join the fun! If you have questions or need directions contact Pastor Meyers or John Keane.

VBS — VBS will be July 23-27. Volunteers are needed. Please see Anna Hoegemann for more information.

Graduation Reception — May 20 we will recognize all our graduates during coffee hour. Please sign up if you are graduating or know someone who is graduating. See Barb Hoover if you have any questions.

Annual Congregational Meeting — On Sunday, May 20, we will hold our annual congregational meeting during the Sunday School hour. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect new officers and explain and discuss the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

WIC Officers Needed — We are seeking nominations for the following opportunities to serve the Women in the Church: President, Vice President, Secretary/Committee Coordinator, Bethel Committee Chair, and Hospitality Committee Helper. See Lori Shaffer if you have any questions.

Church Calendar

May 7	6:30 PM Ladies' Flower Arranging Class
May 13	Year End Memory Review #2
May 17	Bridal Shower for Ellie Moore
May 18-19	Men and Boys Campout
May 20	Graduation Reception / Congregational Meeting
June 10	Annual Pig Roast
July 23-27	VBS
August 3-4	Rummage Sale

The Lord's Service Explained

Easter Season

In the early, post-apostolic Church it was the feast of Easter that established the starting point of the development of the liturgical church year. The year as a whole receives its "Sunday" at Easter. Just as the first day of the week gives meaning and purpose to the weekly pattern of human life, so also the celebration of Easter in the Spring orients the entire year around the victorious resurrection of Christ for the life of the world. The early Church did not intend for this yearly pattern to replace or weaken the weekly Sunday worship of the church. Rather, the annual pattern was intended to enable the church to understand even better the mystery of Christ's sanctification of all of life, time included.

Early on in the Church's development of the Easter feast, following the weekly pattern, the annual celebration was set within a framework of six weeks of preparation and repentance (called Lent), ending with the rest of Easter. Then, following Easter Sunday, seven weeks of exultation and feasting were decreed, ending in Pentecost and the beginning of an "eighth week." The church, therefore, celebrates a "week of weeks" during the Easter season as a reminder of Christ's comprehensive redemption of all of life, a time of feasting, giving thanks, and praise to the Risen Christ. Easter season ends with the festival of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) which ends the seven weeks and ushers in the world to come (symbolically, the eighth day or week). Use these seven weeks of Easter season not just to meditate and reflect upon the resurrection of our Lord, but also to rejoice, give thanks, and sing about the comprehensive victory that he has accomplished for you.

The color for Easter is white. White symbolizes purity, light, and life. It is the bright "color" of Jesus' glorified humanity after his resurrection and therefore will also be the "color" of our new "clothing" when we are resurrected. Easter hymns can be found in the Trinity Hymnal #197-209, and also #596-609.

An Easter Prayer: O almighty and eternal God, now that you have assured us of the completion of our redemption through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, give us the will to show forth in our lives what we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age. Amen.

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	John Moore	314-984-9869
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Ken Pratt	314-416-1176
Rev. Josh Anderson (Assoc.)	314-814-5213	Monte Shields	314-849-0597
Jason Carter	636-257-2441	Allan Wamsley	314-560-9602
Richard Hiers	314-543-3010	Brad Wood (Clerk)	636-587-9211

The Deacons

Jack Boeve (Chairman)	636-461-1398	Steve Shaffer	314-843-1964
Bryan Carter	636-271-7288	Pat Staebel	314-303-4369
Rick Gibbs	636-451-3463	Paul Svezia	314-406-9101
Dan Hayes	314-984-9814	Bob Wooldridge	314-963-9671
Daryl Hoegemann	314-962-4874		

Women in the Church Officers

President: Denise Gerstung	314-821-9324	Nursery: Lu Greeno	618-538-5885
Vice President: Judy Linton	636-349-9028	Christine Greeno	618-514-0935
Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Shaffer	314-843-1964	Melanie Greeno	518-926-9046
Committee Coordinator: Rhonda Hoard	636-938-3575	Bethel	
WIC advisor: Joanie Harris	636-394-6896	Kitchen: Rosamma Weston	314-205-2018
Prayer Chain: Doris Daily	314-961-8799	Tracy Boeve	636-461-1398
Carol Van Heest	314-966-5732	Hospitality: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
Brenda Svezia	svezia@sbcglobal.net	Joanie Harris	636-394-6896
Missions: Debbie Keane	636-938-3108	Amanda Cone	314-497-7950
		Wedding Coordinator: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523

Church Staff

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Rev. Tim Weston	314-205-2018 (Home)
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Pastor to International Students	814-2019 (Cell)
Rev. Joshua Anderson	314-814-5213	Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523
Associate Pastor		Melanie Carter (Secretary)	636-271-7288
Paul Jaeggi, Sr.	314-843-7994 (Church)		
Asst. to the Pastor	314-631-4394 (Home)		

Pastoral Interns

Matt Teeselink	563-579-3674	Steve Schleppehorst	217-257-2592
Ryan Van Horn	314-620-3744		

Home and Foreign Ministries

Ross Dixon	RUF Ministry (Mizzou)	Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia
Garrett & Michelle Crow	Santa Clarita, CA	John & Cathy Rug	Chile
Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Lian & Clara Tombing	India
Bryan Walker	US Army Chaplain	Marcus Toole	Canada
Daniel & Stephanie McKinney	Salt Lake City	Tim & Rosamma Weston	ISI (St. Louis)
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	Dan & Becky Young	Mexico