



# Ascension PCA

**August 9, 2020**



**A community of worshipping, maturing,  
and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ,  
to the glory of God the Father,  
by the power of His Spirit,  
and in the hope of God's Kingdom.**

## A word about our liturgy

The elements and sequence that make up our worship service (the liturgy) is the way we tell ourselves, one another, and all in this place, the grand story of the Triune God: the story of God pursuing a people despite their wanderings and forgetfulness, and shaping them into His people for His glory.



## QUIETING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

*Thy promise, Lord, and Thy command,  
Have brought us here today;  
And now, we humbly waiting stand,  
To hear what Thou wilt say.  
Meet us, we pray, with words of peace,  
And fill our hearts with love;  
That from our follies we may cease,  
And henceforth faithful prove.*

~ John Newton

# GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*We gather at the invitation of God through His Word.  
He speaks first, revealing Himself to us,  
and we respond with one voice in joy and thanksgiving!*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 147:12–20*

M: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!  
For He strengthens the bars of your gates;  
He blesses your children within you.  
He makes peace in your borders;  
He fills you with the finest of the wheat.  
He sends out His command to the earth;  
His word runs swiftly.  
He gives snow like wool;  
He scatters frost like ashes.  
He hurls down His crystals of ice like crumbs;  
who can stand before His cold?  
He sends out His word, and melts them;  
He makes His wind blow and the waters flow.

**P: He declares His word to Jacob,  
His statutes and rules to Israel.  
He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know His rules.  
Praise the LORD!**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

# SONGS OF PRAISE

## *Great Is Our God*

**Come let us praise Him,  
Let us kneel at the throne of our God.  
Through His Son our salvation was bought  
With mercy and grace.**

**Come let us bow down,  
In His hands are the depths of the earth.  
With one voice we proclaim His great worth,  
Lord our God!**

*And we will seek Him,  
our Rock of Salvation.  
Morning by morning  
with thanksgiving we come.  
And we will bow down,  
with creation we cry out.  
In daylight and darkness  
we sing to the Lord.*

*Great is our God,  
Great is our God,  
Great is our God.*

**Lord of all nations,  
We will stand at the end of our days  
In Your courts and declare Your great ways,  
In Spirit and Truth.**

**We long for Your kingdom,  
Bring Your thunder and gather the earth.  
All who tremble will tell of Your worth,  
Lord our God!**

*And we will seek Him,  
our Rock of Salvation.  
Morning by morning  
with thanksgiving we come.  
And we will bow down,  
with creation we cry out.  
In daylight and darkness  
we sing to the Lord.*

***And we will seek Him,  
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Morning by morning  
with thanksgiving we come.  
And we will bow down,  
with creation we cry out.  
In daylight and darkness  
we sing to the Lord.***

***Great is our God,  
Great is our God,  
Great is our God.***

Words and music by Eric Marshall  
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### *Blessed Be Your Name*

**Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful,  
Where Your streams of abundance flow,  
Blessed be Your name.**

**And blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place;  
Though I walk through the wilderness,  
Blessed be Your name.**

***Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise,  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
Still I will say:***

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name!***

**Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me,  
When the world's "all as it should be,"  
Blessed be Your name.**

**And blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering;  
Though there's pain in the offering,  
Blessed be Your name.**

***Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise,  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
Still I will say:***

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name!***

**You give and take away,  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
Lord, blessed be Your name!**

**You give and take away,  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
Lord, blessed be Your name!**

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name!***

Words and music by Matt & Beth Redman  
© 2002 Thankyou Music

# NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*1 John 4:1-6*

## **Test the Spirits**

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

# GOD CLEANSSES US

*We gather each week as sinners in constant need of His mercy.  
The corporate confession of sin acknowledges this  
and invites honest expression before God.  
However, God isn't silent as we cry out to Him —  
He assures us that His grace is bigger than our sin.  
God's forgiveness is for all those who humble themselves  
before Him in Christ Jesus.*

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Most Holy Father,  
full of grace and truth,**

**We confess that,  
though we are Your people,  
and You have set Your Name upon us in Christ,  
we have lived as if we do not know You.**

**Though You have shown us  
boundless mercy and grace,  
and washed us with our Savior's precious blood,  
we have acted as though our sins  
were a small thing.**

**Though You have daily provided for us  
with bread imperishable, words of eternal life,  
we have forgotten Your counsel  
and chased after other goods.**

**Forgive us, we pray,  
Receive us, again, in the name of our Lord Jesus.  
Revive us, once more, by Your Spirit,  
And renew in us a more wholehearted devotion,  
That You might be glorified in all things.  
Amen.**

*~ Please use this time for silent confession.*



# DECLARATION OF PARDON

*John 6:35,40*

M: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst... For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Speak, O Lord*

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,  
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness;**

**That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.**

**Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail —  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us —  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
That will echo down through eternity.**

**And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built,  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.**

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend  
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## GOD SPEAKS TO US

*The Holy Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word a crucial means of growing and comforting God's people and awakening people to new faith in Jesus.*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### READING OF THE WORD

#### *Psalm 19*

#### **The Law of the LORD Is Perfect**

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.
- 2 Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.
- 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In them He has set a tent for the sun,  
5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his  
chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
making wise the simple;

- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;  
the rules of the LORD are true,  
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is Your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
- 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous  
sins;  
let them not have dominion over me!  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart  
be acceptable in Your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

## GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

## PREACHING OF THE WORD

*"A God Who Speaks Today"*

*Mr. Austin Clement*

# PRAYER

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*

**May the mind of Christ, my Savior  
Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and pow'r controlling  
All I do and say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph  
Only through His pow'r.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me  
As the waters fill the sea;  
Him exalting, self abasing:  
This is victory.**

Words by Kate B. Wilkinson (1925). Music by A. Cyril Barham-Gould (1925; alt. 1990)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## GOD COMMUNES WITH US

*The Lord's Supper is a meal for the family of God, given by Jesus the night before His death to be celebrated until His return. It points back to the cross, forward to the return of King, and spiritually nourishes us for today as we eat and drink in faith.*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

# CONFESSING OUR FAITH

## *The Apostles' Creed*

**P: 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 Ghost,  
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 sits on  
the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there He shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## PRAYER/MEDITATION

## 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.**

## BENEDICTION

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# **ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:00AM: Worship Service (livestream)**

**10:30AM: Worship Service (outdoors at ECOG)**

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