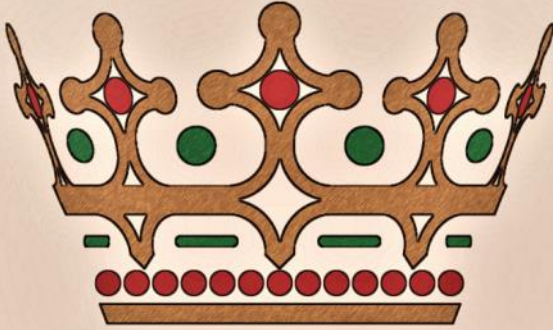




Ascension PCA

August 23, 2020



ESTHER

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

*What is now will not go on forever.
This world is marching toward an end.
We can embrace the hope of justice.
Final judgment is coming.
Grace requires evil to die forever.
Those far from You will perish.
Those unfaithful to You will come to an end.

I have been unfaithful to You.
I have chosen to be far from You.
I have broken each of Your laws.

But I am not afraid of what
You will put to an end.
Grace has drawn me near to You.
Grace has paid for my unfaithfulness.
Grace has made me clean in Your eyes.
Grace put my stripes on Jesus,
so I would not face them
when You put what-is-now
to an end.*

~ Paul Tripp

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 33:1-12

M: Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings!
Sing to Him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

P: **For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all His work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love
of the LORD.
By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of His mouth all their host.
He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
He puts the deeps in storehouses.**

M: Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world
stand in awe of Him!
For He spoke, and it came to be;
He commanded, and it stood firm.

P: **The LORD brings the counsel of the nations
to nothing;
He frustrates the plans of the peoples.
The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.
Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom He has chosen
as His heritage!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.**

**All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice!**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered,
That the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

**With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting vict'ry from the grave
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

...

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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I Will Glory in My Redeemer

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
And hung Him on that judgment tree.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the Holy Judge:
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer.
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness, my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing.**

...

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook

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NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-21

¹ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

...

¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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: Holy God, forgive us for the countless ways
in which we have not loved others.**

**For we confess that we are so easily
blind to the needs of one another,
wrapped up in our self-love.**

**We confess that we just don't want to
enter into their 'mess.'**

**We confess that we too easily
inwardly condemn one another
in the pride of our own hearts.**

**Help us to want to see others,
help us to listen with our hearts,
help us to love with the self-sacrificing love
that Jesus modeled and poured out on us.**

**We need Your grace.
In the name of Jesus we plead. Amen.**

~ Please use this time for silent confession.

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Exodus 34:6,7a

M: The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...

SONG OF ASSURANCE

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

**And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?**

*Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

**He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace.
Humbled Himself, so great His love,
And bled for all His chosen race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.**

*Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

*Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

...

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738); Music by Thomas Campbell (1825)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Esther 7:1 – 8:2

¹ So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ² And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther, "What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king."

...

⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?"

⁶ And Esther said, "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!"

Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁷ And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king.

⁸ And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?"

As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face. ⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman's house, fifty cubits high."

And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.

¹ On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. ² And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

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

"Divine Justice"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

**God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.**

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.**

...

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

**Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.
His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.**

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

Words by William Cowper and Matt Papa. Music by Matt Papa.
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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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