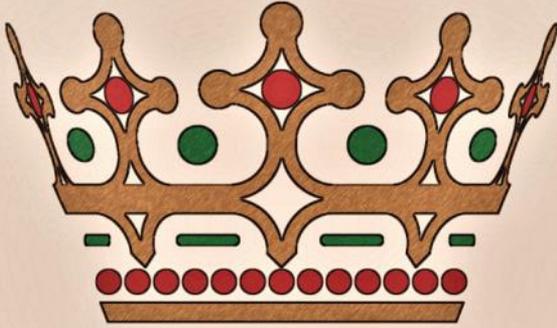




Ascension PCA

August 30, 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

*It is the living God of history
who bends and breaks His challengers,
who makes an end to wars
and directs the wars of the Lord,
and who as the Holy One
is active in all the world,
spanning the length and breadth of it.
In no phase of the world's history
is the rule of God in danger.*

~ G.C. Berkouwer

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

based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

M: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**P: The LORD is the stronghold of our lives.
We desire to live in God's house
and to seek God in His holy temple.
We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and to make music to the LORD.**

M: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**P: Teach us Your ways
and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come As You Are

**Come out of sadness,
From wherever you've been;
Come, broken hearted,
Let rescue begin;
Come find your mercy,
Oh sinner come kneel.
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal;
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't heal.**

...

*So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.*

*Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Lay down your heart,
Come as you are.*

**There's hope for the hopeless,
And all those who've strayed;
Come sit at the table,
Come taste the grace.**

**There's rest for the weary,
A rest that endures;
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't cure.**

*So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.*

*Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Lay down your heart,
Come as you are.*

*Come as you are,
Fall in his arms,
Come as you are.*

**There's joy for the morning,
Oh sinner be still,
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal.
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't heal.**

...

***So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.***

***Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Come as you are,
Come as you are,
Come as you are.***

Words and music by Ben Glover, David Crowder, Matt Maher
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All Creatures of Our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
*O praise Him! Alleluia!***

**Thou, burning sun with golden beam,
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam,
*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
*O praise Him! Alleluia!***

**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**All the redeemed washed by His blood,
Come and rejoice in His great love,
*O praise Him! Alleluia!***

**Christ has defeated every sin,
Case all your burdens now on Him,
*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

...

**He shall return in pow'r to reign,
Heaven and earth will join to say,**

O praise Him! Alleluia!

**Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King,**

O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Original words (v. 1–2) by St. Francis of Assisi, translated by William Henry Draper (1926).

Additional words (v. 3–4) by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.

16th Century German tune, adapted by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.

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NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 5:1–5

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him.

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments.

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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

Romans 3:23

P: ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

~ Please use this time for silent confession.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Romans 3:24,25a

M: ...and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith...

SONG OF ASSURANCE

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!**

**And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine —
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry, to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns, or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

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 8:1 – 9:19

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.

³ Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. ⁴ When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, Esther rose and stood before the king.

⁵ And she said, "If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king. ⁶ For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?"

⁷ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews.

...

⁸ But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."

⁹ The king's scribes were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day. And an edict was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded concerning the Jews, to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language. ¹⁰ And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud, ¹¹ saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods, ¹² on one day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. ¹³ A copy of what was written was to be issued as a decree in every province, being publicly displayed to all peoples, and the Jews were to be ready on that day to take vengeance on their enemies. ¹⁴ So the couriers, mounted on their swift horses that were used in the king's service, rode out hurriedly, urged by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Susa the citadel.

¹⁵ Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. ¹⁶ The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. ¹⁷ And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness

and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.

¹ Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them.

² The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples. ³ All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them. ⁴ For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful.

⁵ The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them. ⁶ In Susa the citadel itself the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men, ⁷ and also killed Parshandatha and Dalphon and Aspatha ⁸ and Poratha and Adalia and Aridatha ⁹ and Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vaizatha, ¹⁰ the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they laid no hand on the plunder.

¹¹ That very day the number of those killed in Susa the citadel was reported to the king. ¹² And the king said to Queen Esther, "In Susa the citadel the Jews have killed and destroyed 500 men and also the ten sons of Haman. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what further is your request? It shall be fulfilled."

...

¹³ And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the Jews who are in Susa be allowed tomorrow also to do according to this day's edict. And let the ten sons of Haman be hanged on the gallows."

¹⁴ So the king commanded this to be done. A decree was issued in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged. ¹⁵ The Jews who were in Susa gathered also on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and they killed 300 men in Susa, but they laid no hands on the plunder.

¹⁶ Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives, and got relief from their enemies and killed 75,000 of those who hated them, but they laid no hands on the plunder. ¹⁷ This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁸ But the Jews who were in Susa gathered on the thirteenth day and on the fourteenth, and rested on the fifteenth day, making that a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁹ Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the rural towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and as a day on which they send gifts of food to one another.

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

"The Great Reversal"

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 Westminster Confession of Faith, Chap. VIII; IV

**P: It pleased God, in His eternal purpose,
to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus,
His only begotten Son,
to be the Mediator between God and man,
the Prophet, Priest, and King,
the Head and Savior of His church,
the Heir of all things,
and Judge of the world:**

...

**to whom He did from all eternity give a people,
to be His seed, and to be by Him in time
redeemed, called, justified, sanctified
and glorified.**

**The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience,
and sacrifice of Himself,
which He, through the eternal Spirit,
once offered up unto God,
has fully satisfied the justice of His Father;
and purchased, not only reconciliation,
but an everlasting inheritance
in the kingdom of heaven,
for all those whom the Father has given to Him.**

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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