



# Ascension PCA

January 3, 2021



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

“If you desire to establish yourself and others in devotion, to know what confidence is to be reposed in God, and what makes the mind fearless, you will praise God by reciting the ninety-first Psalm.”

~ *Athanasius*

# 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 92:1-4*

**P: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;  
to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,  
and Your faithfulness by night,  
to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.  
For you, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;  
At the works of Your hands I sing for joy.**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee*

**Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise You  
For the bliss Your love bestows;  
For the pard'ning grace that saves me,  
And the peace that from it flows.  
Help, O God, my weak endeavor;  
This dull soul to rapture raise:  
You must light the flame, or never  
Can my love be warmed to praise.**

**Praise, my soul, the God that sought me,  
Wretched wand'r'er far astray;  
Found me lost, and kindly brought me  
From the paths of death away.  
Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,  
Him who saw my guilt-born fear;  
And, the light of hope revealing,  
Bade the blood-stained cross appear.**

...

**Praise my Savior God that drew me  
To that cross, new life to give;  
Held a blood-sealed pardon to me,  
Bade me look to Him and live.**

**Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,  
Roused me from my fatal ease;  
Praise the grace whose promise warmed me,  
Praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817)  
Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

### *Lord, for Your Glory*

**Lord, for Your glory  
We sing Your praises,  
We magnify Your holy name.  
All for Your glory,  
Lord, we bring blessing.  
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

***We lift our hands,  
We lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts,  
We live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are for the glory of You.***

**Almighty Father,  
We are Your children.  
You have been faithful to Your own.  
Lord, for Your glory,  
We have been chosen.  
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands,  
We lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts,  
We live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are,  
We offer all we have,  
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann & Grant Cunningham (1998)  
© 1998 New Spring, Matt Huesmann Music, Imagine This Music, River Oaks Music Company

## *Only a Holy God*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God,  
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

# NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

## *Romans 7:15–25*

<sup>15</sup> For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

<sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. <sup>17</sup> So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

## 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: Faithful Father,**

**Your love for us is changeless and unending.  
We confess that our love for You  
is weak, flickering, variable,  
and laced with selfish ambition and desire.**

**Your love is like a mighty ocean  
that rushes toward us each day  
and envelops us with kindness, mercy,  
and steadfast faithfulness.**

**Our love for You is like a fleeting mist:  
a vapor that rises from time to time  
and quickly evaporates in the heat  
of life's pain and suffering.**

**Father, forgive us for loving so many other gods  
and giving our lives to them,  
while failing to notice Your hand of love  
at work for us each day.**

**Jesus, thank You for Your changeless  
and unending love.**

**You loved us before the foundation of the world  
and entered history in order to redeem us.**

**Holy Spirit, fill us with gratitude for the love  
we have in Christ that will never let us go.**

**Though our sins are many,  
lift up our heads and show us the cross. Amen.**

# SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

*In these moments, we confess our personal sins to God  
so that we may take hold of the forgiveness  
won for us by Christ, our Redeemer.*

# ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Romans 8:31b,32*

M: ...If God is for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare His own Son  
but gave Him up for us all,  
how will He not also with Him  
graciously give us all things?

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*His Mercy is More*

***Praise the Lord,  
His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness,  
New every morn,  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more!***

**What love could remember  
no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing,  
He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea  
without bottom or shore;  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more.**

**What patience would wait  
as we constantly roam?  
What Father, so tender,  
is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest,  
the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord,  
His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness,  
New every morn,  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness  
He lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment,  
His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt  
we could never afford.  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord,  
His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness,  
New every morn,  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa  
© 2016 Messenger Hymns (admin. by Music Services, Inc.)  
and Love Your Enemies Publishing

## **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 91*

- 1 Now He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with His pinions,  
and under His wings you will find refuge;  
His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.  
7 A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.  
8 You will only look with your eyes  
and see the recompense of the wicked.  
9 Because you have made the LORD  
your dwelling place —  
the Most High, who is my refuge —  
10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.  
11 For He will command His angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
12 On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
13 You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent  
you will trample underfoot.  
14 “Because he holds fast to Me in love,  
I will deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows My name.  
15 When he calls to Me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and honor him.  
16 With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him My salvation.”

## 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

*“Secure in God’s Love”*

*Rev. Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

**Children of the Heavenly Father,  
Safely in His bosom gather  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven,  
Such a refuge e’er was given.**

**God His own doth tend and nourish,  
In His holy courts they flourish  
From all evil things He spares them,  
In His mighty arms He bears them.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne’er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.**

**More secure is no one ever,  
Than the loved ones of the Savior.  
Not yon star on high abiding,  
Nor the bird in home-nest hiding.**

Words by Carolina Sandell (1855); translated by Ernst W. Olson. Swedish folk melody  
© 1925 Board of Publication Lutheran Church of America, ren. 1963,  
admin. Augsburg Fortress

# 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

*adapted from Ephesians 2*

**P: We were dead in our transgressions and sins,  
in which we used to live  
when we followed the ways of this world,  
of the ruler of the kingdom of the air,  
the spirit who is now at work  
in those who are disobedient.**

**All of us lived among them at one time,  
gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature  
and following its desires and thoughts.**

**Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.**

**But because of His great love for us,  
God, who is rich in mercy,  
made us alive with Christ**

**even when we were dead in transgressions.  
It is by grace we have been saved.**

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Please come forward to receive the elements at the table, then return to your seats. Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.*

## PRAYER

# GOD SENDS US

*We end by receiving God's promises to us as His people.  
He will be with us as we serve Him in this world,  
to the end of all time.*

## BENEDICTION

## 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.**



Song lyrics reproduced by permission: CCL#11181050

Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



# ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:30AM: Worship Service  
(in-person & livestream)**

### **Meeting Address:**

8224 220<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

### **Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

### **APC Office:**

Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

(425) 286-8617

*office@ascension-pca.org*

## **STAFF & LEADERSHIP**

PASTOR:

**Rev. Nate Hitchcock**     *nate@ascension-pca.org*

ASSISTANT PASTOR:

**Rev. Edward Volz**     *ed@ascension-pca.org*

PASTORAL INTERN:

**Austin Clement**     *clement.austin@gmail.com*

OFFICE MANAGER:

**Rina Kroes**     *office@ascension-pca.org*

ELDERS:

**Brett Chase**     *brett@ascension-pca.org*

**Bob Miller**     *bob@ascension-pca.org*

**Bo Stocklin**     *bostocklin@ascension-pca.org*

**Chris Sledge**     *chris@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

**Philip Barrow**     *philip@ascension-pca.org*

**Peter Contreras**     *peter@ascension-pca.org*

**Fred Wilson**     *fred@ascension-pca.org*

**Kyle Bartlett**     *kyle@ascension-pca.org*

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

**Leandra Howell**     *leandra.m.howell@gmail.com*

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

**Monica Sledge**     *cmkesledge@gmail.com*

MEAL COORDINATOR:

**Sheila Bloedow**     *s.bloedow@comcast.net*

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

**Diane Miller**     *drsm40@gmail.com*

### **A NOTE ABOUT GIVING**

Please make sure that checks are made out to  
**Ascension Presbyterian Church**  
and that any automatic payments are being sent  
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.