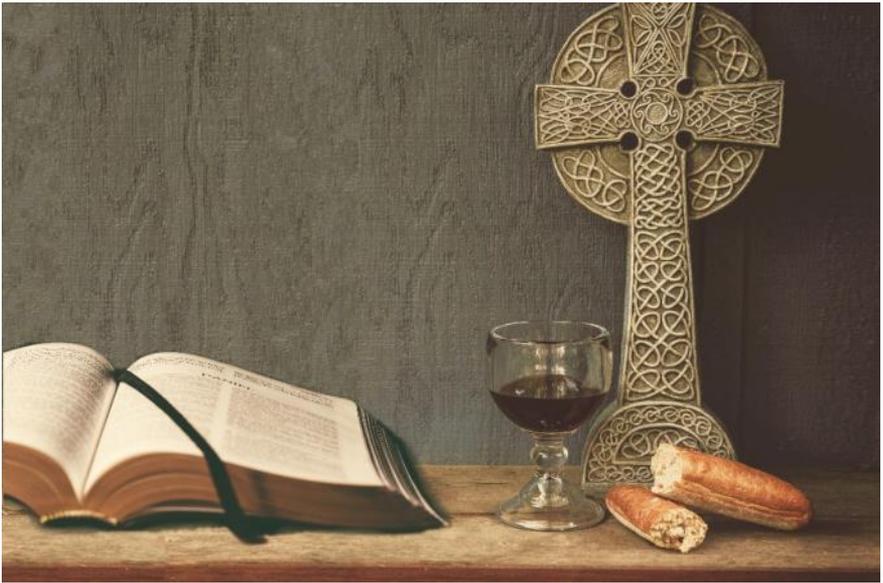




**Ascension** PCA

**March 14, 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

Beholding glory begs for lingering.  
The modern, fast-paced world will tempt you to rush and skim.  
This kind of life will make you shallow.  
The world does not need more widely-read, shallow people.  
It needs deep people.  
I don't mean complex.  
I don't mean highly educated.  
I don't mean you know big words.  
I don't mean you know historical background.  
I mean you have seen glory — the glory of God in his Word.  
You have pondered it and felt its relation to all the parts of your life.  
You have been steadied and satisfied by it.  
You have come home.  
You are not frantic anymore.  
You are at peace in the presence of God.  
This is what I mean by deep.  
This is what the world needs.

*~ John Piper*

# 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 99:1–3 | 1 Timothy 1:17*

M: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth quake!  
The LORD is great in Zion;  
He is exalted over all the peoples.  
Let them praise Your great and awesome name!  
Holy is He!

**P: To the King of ages,  
immortal, invisible,  
the only God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

**I sing the mighty power of God,  
That made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
And built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at His command,  
And all the stars obey.**

...

**I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
That filled the earth with food;  
He formed the creatures with His Word  
And then pronounced them good.**

**Lord, how Your wonders are displayed  
Where'er I turn my eye:  
If I survey the ground I tread  
Or gaze upon the sky!**

**There's not a plant or flower below  
But makes Your glories known,  
And clouds arise and tempests blow,  
By order from Your throne.**

**While all that borrows life from You  
Is ever in Your care,  
And everywhere that man can be,  
You, God, are present there.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1714; Mod.).  
Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## *Only You*

**You have known my every situation,  
And Your goodness sustains me, Lord;  
I will bow in humble expectation  
Of Your presence in the storm.**

**Yes, there will be trial and tribulation,  
And You'll grant me breath to persevere.  
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,  
Of the day You'll dry these tears.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,  
Only You give orders to the dawn,  
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,  
Only You deserve our song.***

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,  
Yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.  
All these things too wonderful to speak of,  
Fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

...

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,  
Only You give orders to the dawn,  
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,  
Only You deserve our song.***

***Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,  
You expose the evils of the night.  
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,  
Only You are clothed in light.***

**Here I am in the valley of decision,  
I know You hear me when I call,  
I repent of my prideful disposition;  
Where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall  
© 2014 Scot Family Reunion Songs (Admin. by Scot Family Reunion, LLC )

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Jeremiah 10:11–25*

<sup>11</sup> Thus shall you say to them: “The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.”

<sup>12</sup> It is He who made the earth by His power,  
who established the world by His wisdom,  
and by His understanding stretched out  
the heavens.

<sup>13</sup> When He utters His voice, there is a tumult of  
waters in the heavens,  
and He makes the mist rise  
from the ends of the earth.  
He makes lightning for the rain,  
and He brings forth the wind  
from His storehouses.

<sup>14</sup> Every man is stupid and without knowledge;  
every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols,  
for his images are false,  
and there is no breath in them.

<sup>15</sup> They are worthless, a work of delusion;  
at the time of their punishment they shall perish.

...

16 Not like these is He who is the portion of Jacob,  
for He is the One who formed all things,  
and Israel is the tribe of His inheritance;  
the LORD of hosts is His name.

17 Gather up your bundle from the ground,  
O you who dwell under siege!

18 For thus says the LORD:  
"Behold, I am slinging out the inhabitants  
of the land  
at this time,  
and I will bring distress on them,  
that they may feel it."

19 Woe is me because of my hurt!  
My wound is grievous.  
But I said, "Truly this is an affliction,  
and I must bear it."

20 My tent is destroyed,  
and all my cords are broken;  
my children have gone from me,  
and they are not;  
there is no one to spread my tent again  
And to set up my curtains.

21 For the shepherds are stupid  
and do not inquire of the LORD;  
therefore they have not prospered,  
and all their flock is scattered.

22 A voice, a rumor! Behold, it comes! —  
a great commotion out of the north country  
to make the cities of Judah a desolation,  
a lair of jackals.

23 I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself,  
that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

24 Correct me, O LORD, but in justice;  
not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.

25 Pour out your wrath on the nations  
that know You not,  
and on the peoples that call not on Your name,  
for they have devoured Jacob;  
they have devoured him and consumed him,  
and have laid waste his habitation.

# 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 Father,**

**You see us as we are,  
and know our inmost thoughts.**

**We confess that we are unworthy  
of Your gracious care.**

**We forget that all life comes from You  
and that to You all life returns.**

**We have not sought to do Your will  
with our whole hearts.**

**We have not lived as grateful children,  
nor loved as Christ loved us.**

**Apart from You, we are nothing.  
Only Your grace can sustain us.**

**Lord, in Your mercy,  
forgive us, heal us, and make us whole.**

**Set us free from our sin,  
and restore us to the joy of Your salvation  
now and forever. 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

*1 Peter 2:24*

M: He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,  
so that we might die to sins and live for  
righteousness;  
by His wounds you have been healed.

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*He Was Wounded*

**He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He bore our sins in His body on the tree;  
For our guilt He gave us peace,  
From our bondage gave release,  
And with His stripes, and with His stripes,  
And with His stripes our souls are healed.**

**He was numbered among transgressors,  
We did esteem Him forsaken by His God;  
As our sacrifice He died,  
That the law be satisfied,  
And all our sin, and all our sin,  
And all our sin was laid on Him.**

**We had wandered, we all had wandered  
Far from the fold of "the Shepherd of the sheep";  
But He sought us where we were,  
On the mountains bleak and bare,  
And brought us home, and brought us home,  
And brought us safely home to God.**

**Who can number His generation?  
Who shall declare all the triumphs of His cross?  
Millions, dead, now live again,  
Myriads follow in His train!  
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,  
Victorious Lord and coming King!**

**Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,  
Victorious Lord and coming King!**

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm (1920). Music by Joseph N. Partain (1977)  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music © 2015 Nathan Partain

# 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

#### *1 Thessalonians 1:1–10*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



# PRAYER

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Take My Life and Let it Be*

**Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my will, and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

Words by Frances R. Havergal (1874)  
Music by Henri A. César Malan (1827)  
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

*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 | MEDITATION

### 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.**



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# **ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

(425) 286-8617

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