



**Ascension** PCA

**April 4, 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

The resurrection assures us  
that when Jesus claimed to be  
God's promised Rescuer  
and when He claimed to have  
the divine authority to forgive repentant sinners  
who put their trust in Him,  
He spoke the truth.  
If He had been lying,  
He would not be sitting at the right hand of God  
but suffering the penalty due Him  
for deceiving millions of people  
into trusting a false messiah.  
Instead, He was 'declared to be the Son of God in power  
according to the Spirit of holiness  
by His resurrection from the dead.' (Romans 1:4).

The resurrection is God's stamp of approval  
on Jesus' claim to be our Lord and Savior.

*~ John Ensor*

# 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

*from Matthew 28*

**M:** After the Sabbath,  
at dawn on the first day of the week,  
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary  
went to look at the tomb.

**P:** **There was a violent earthquake,  
for an angel of the Lord  
came down from heaven  
and, going to the tomb,  
rolled back the stone and sat on it.**

**M:** His appearance was like lightning,  
and his clothes were white as snow.  
The guards were so afraid of him  
that they shook and became like dead men.

**P:** **The angel said to the women,  
“Do not be afraid,  
for I know that you are looking for Jesus,  
who was crucified.”**

**M:** “He is not here; He is risen, just as He said.”

**P:** **He is not here; He is risen! Hallelujah!**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

# SONGS OF PRAISE

*Come, People of the Risen King*

**Come, people of the risen King,  
Who delight to bring Him praise.  
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace.**

**From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him,  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in.**

***Rejoice, Rejoice!  
Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice,  
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun,  
And those weeping through the night.  
Come, those who tell of battles won,  
And those struggling in the fight.**

**For His perfect love will never change,  
And His mercies never cease,  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace.**

***Rejoice, Rejoice!  
Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice,  
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, young and old from every land,  
Men and women of the faith.  
Come, those with full or empty hands,  
Find the riches of His grace.**

**Over all the world, His people sing,  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The Truth that cries through every age:  
Our God is all in all!**

...

**Rejoice, Rejoice!**  
**Let every tongue rejoice!**  
**One heart, one voice,**  
**O Church of Christ, rejoice!**  
**Rejoice, Rejoice!**  
**Let every tongue rejoice!**  
**One heart, one voice,**  
**O Church of Christ, rejoice!**

Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend  
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## *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

**“Christ the Lord is ris’n today,”** *Alleluia!*  
**Sons of men and angels say;** *Alleluia!*  
**Raise your joys and triumphs high;** *Alleluia!*  
**Sing ye heav’ns, and earth, reply.** *Alleluia!*

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;** *Alleluia!*  
**Christ has burst the gates of hell:** *Alleluia!*  
**Death in vain forbids His rise;** *Alleluia!*  
**Christ has opened paradise.** *Alleluia!*

**Lives again our glorious King;** *Alleluia!*  
**Where, O death, is now thy sting?** *Alleluia!*  
**Once He died, our souls to save;** *Alleluia!*  
**Where thy victory, O grave?** *Alleluia!*

**Soar we now where Christ has led,** *Alleluia!*  
**Foll’wing our exalted Head;** *Alleluia!*  
**Made like Him, like Him we rise:** *Alleluia!*  
**Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.** *Alleluia!*

Words by Charles Wesley (1739). Music from *Lyra Davidica* (1708; alt.)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

# OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

## *Psalm 16*

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.  
2 I say to the LORD, "You are my LORD;  
I have no good apart from You."  
3 As for the saints in the land,  
they are the excellent ones,  
in whom is all my delight.  
4 The sorrows of those who run after another god  
shall multiply;  
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names on my lips.  
5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;  
You hold my lot.  
6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.  
7 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.  
8 I have set the LORD always before me;  
because He is at my right hand,  
I shall not be shaken.  
9 Therefore my heart is glad,  
and my whole being rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.  
10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let Your holy one see corruption.  
11 You make known to me the path of life;  
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

# 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: O Almighty God,  
Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
We acknowledge that we are unworthy  
of Your redeeming grace.  
We have not believed Your promises  
nor trusted in our living Lord.  
Our hearts have not burned within us  
as we have heard His Word.  
We have not fully trusted in His redeeming power.  
We have forgotten the glad tidings  
of His victory over death,  
And have not known the things  
that belong to our peace.  
But now in penitence we come to You  
asking for Your forgiveness.  
Mercifully forgive us from all our sins  
and restore unto us the joy of Your salvation.  
For Jesus Christ's sake,  
our only Mediator and Advocate,  
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.*

# AFFIRMATION OF PRAISE / ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*from 1 Corinthians 15*

M: If Christ has not been raised,  
your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.  
Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ  
are lost.

**P: If only for this life we have hope in Christ,  
we are to be pitied more than all men.**

M: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since death came through a man,  
the resurrection of the dead  
comes also through a man.

**P: For as in Adam all die,  
so in Christ all will be made alive.  
But each in his own turn:  
Christ, the firstfruits;  
then, when He comes,  
those who belong to Him.**

M: When the perishable  
has been clothed with the imperishable,  
and the mortal with immortality,  
then the saying that is written will come true:  
“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

**P: “Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”  
The sting of death is sin,  
and the power of sin is the law.  
But thanks be to God!  
He gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

# 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!***

**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.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### READING OF THE WORD

*Luke 24:36–49*

<sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> See My hands and My feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and He took it and ate before them.

<sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."



# SONG OF RESPONSE

## *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

**Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;  
Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.**

**No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends each burning eye  
At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife,  
For those He came to save.**

**His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851)  
Music by George Job Elvey (1868)  
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

### PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

*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

# SONG OF RESPONSE

## *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 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

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

Now may the God of peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## 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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and that any automatic payments are being sent  
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