



**Ascension** PCA

**April 11, 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 we were to learn again something of the praise and adoration that is due the triune God at break of day,

God the Father and Creator,

    who has preserved our life through the dark night  
    and wakened us to a new day,

God the Son and Savior,

    who conquered death and hell for us  
    and dwells in our midst as Victor,

God the Holy Spirit,

    who pours the bright gleam of God's Word  
    into our hearts at the dawn of day,  
    driving away all darkness and sin  
    and teaching us to pray aright —

then we would also begin to sense something of

the joy that comes when night is past

and brethren who dwell together in unity

come together early in the morning

    for common praise of their God,  
    common hearing of the Word,  
    and common prayer.

Morning does not belong to the individual,

it belongs to the Church of the triune God,

to the Christian family,

to the brotherhood.

~ *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

# 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

M: Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy.

**P: We approach the LORD,  
the compassionate and gracious God,  
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,  
maintaining love to thousands,  
and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.**

M: God, who is rich in mercy,  
made us alive with Christ  
even when we were dead in our trespasses.

**P: In His great mercy He has given us  
new birth into a living hope.**

M: So as a church family we worship Him saying,

**P: Praise be to the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
He has demonstrated the riches of His mercy to us.  
Praise be to the merciful God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

# SONGS OF PRAISE

## *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace.**

**He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin,  
He sets the prisoners free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.**

**He speaks and list'ning to His voice,  
New life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
The humble poor believe.**

**My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1739)  
Music by Carl G. Gläser (1828); arr. by Lowell Mason (1839)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## *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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# OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

## *Psalm 133*

- 1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,  
life 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: Father, forgive our pride and unbelief.**

**Jesus, thank you for Your humility and faith.  
Thank you, that for the joy that was set before  
You, You went to the cross.  
For the love of Your Father and the people  
He gave You, You drank that bitter cup.  
Thank You that You are committed to Your bride  
and You will come back and take us  
to be with You forever, wiping away  
all our tears and comforting at last  
our grieving and broken hearts.**

...

**Holy Spirit, help us to believe in Christ.  
Help us to believe that in His death we died,  
and that in His resurrection  
we are raised to new life.  
Give us the joy and peace  
that should flow from that reality,  
as we continue to face the broken world  
in which we live,  
especially as we face the last enemy, death itself.  
Help us to live in the light of our full forgiveness,  
in the peace that has been accomplished  
for us and in us,  
that the world might know that we are Yours.  
In the Name of the Risen Jesus, we pray, 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.*

## THE GOOD NEWS

*John 11:25–26*

M: Jesus said to her,  
"I am the resurrection and the life.  
Whoever believes in Me, though he die,  
yet shall he live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in Me  
shall never die.  
Do you believe this?"

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

## *Before the Throne of God Above*

**Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea:  
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart;  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there,  
Who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free.  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness.  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of Glory and of Grace.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God;  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997)  
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# 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

*John 17:20–23*

<sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.”

## 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

*“A Prayer for Unity”*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER



# SONG OF RESPONSE

## *Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me*

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;  
There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;  
For my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine,  
I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;  
For by my side the Saviour He will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,  
For in my need His power is displayed.**

*To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me;  
Through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh, the night has been won,  
And I shall overcome.  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;  
The future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

*To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh, the chains are released,  
I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;  
For He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day I know He will renew me,  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.**

...

***To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;  
All the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete,  
Still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson  
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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**

*1 Peter 2*

**P: We believe:**

**We are a chosen people  
a royal priesthood  
a holy nation  
a people belonging to God  
that we may declare the praises  
of Him who called us out of darkness  
into His wonderful light.  
Once we were not a people,  
but now we are the people of God;  
once we had not received mercy,  
but now we have received mercy.**

# 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.*

## SONG OF MEDITATION

*Be Thou My Vision*

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art —  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905), versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)  
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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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Scripture text from

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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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