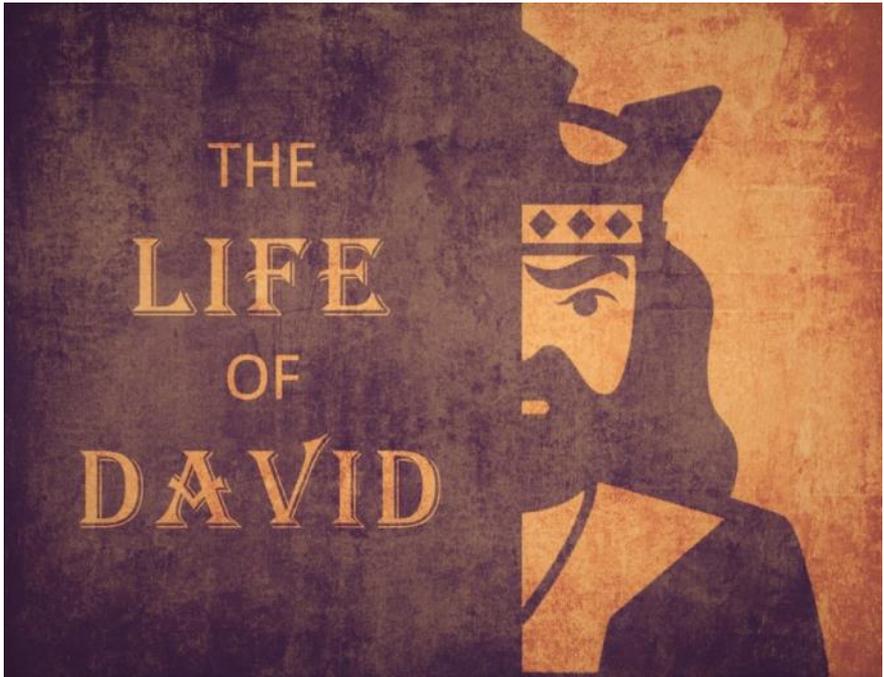




Ascension PCA

April 25, 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

“Jesus, the good shepherd,
will not travel at such a rate as to overdrive the lambs.
He has tender consideration for the poor and needy.
Kings usually look to the interests of the great and the rich,
but in the kingdom of our Great Shepherd
He cares most for the poor. ...
The weaklings and the sickly of the flock
are the special objects of the Savior’s care. ...
You think, dear heart, that you are forgotten,
because of your nothingness and weakness and poverty.
This is the very reason you are remembered.”

~ C.H. Spurgeon

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 62:5–8

**P: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from Him.**

**He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

**On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.**

**M: Trust in Him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before Him;
God is a refuge for us.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

**A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.**

**For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great;
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.**

**If we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.**

...

**You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth, His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.**

**The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.**

**That Word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth.**

**Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.**

Words and music by Martin Luther (1529); translated by Frederick H. Hedge (1853)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Great Is Our God

**Come let us praise Him,
Let us kneel at the throne of our God.
Through His Son our salvation was bought
With mercy and grace.**

**Come let us bow down,
In His hands are the depths of the earth.
With one voice we proclaim His great worth,
Lord our God!**

...

***And we will seek Him,
our Rock of Salvation.
Morning by morning
with thanksgiving we come.
And we will bow down,
with creation we cry out.
In daylight and darkness
we sing to the Lord.***

***Great is our God,
Great is our God,
Great is our God.***

**Lord of all nations,
We will stand at the end of our days
In Your courts and declare Your great ways,
In Spirit and Truth.**

**We long for Your kingdom,
Bring Your thunder and gather the earth.
All who tremble will tell of Your worth,
Lord our God!**

***And we will seek Him,
our Rock of Salvation.
Morning by morning
with thanksgiving we come.
And we will bow down,
with creation we cry out.
In daylight and darkness
we sing to the Lord.***

***And we will seek Him,
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with creation we cry out.
In daylight and darkness
we sing to the Lord.***

***Great is our God,
Great is our God,
Great is our 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 53:1–6

- 1 Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD
been revealed?
- 2 For He grew up before Him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
He had no form or majesty that we should
look at Him,
and no beauty that we should desire Him.
- 3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.
- 4 Surely He has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed Him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
- 5 But He was pierced for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement
that brought us peace,
and with His wounds we are healed.
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned — every one — to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God,
Praise is due You from all Your creatures!
You are the King of Kings, and at Your will,
empires rise and fall;
You sit above the circle of the earth
and govern all things
according to Your will and for Your glory.**

**Yet You are also a kind and loving Shepherd,
carrying us in Your heart and gently leading us
through green pastures and painful valleys.
You are powerful and full of compassion
for Your weak sheep,
and we thank You for stooping to care for us
with tenderness.**

**Father, we confess that we are stubborn, weak,
and difficult to love at times.
We wander and in our pride invent our own ways.
Make us humble, teachable, patient;
quick to see our sin
and confess it to You and one another.**

**Jesus, thank You for willingly bearing our griefs
and carrying our sorrows.
Thank You for bringing us peace
through the punishment You bore.**

**Holy Spirit, lead us to Christ.
For we have an Advocate to calm our fears,
and a perfect Lamb who has died in our place.**

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

Psalm 118:19–24

M: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank You that You have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
By His Son, God now has spoken:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

**Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress.**

**Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save.
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.**

...

**Ye who think of sin but lightly,
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.**

**Mark the Sacrifice appointed,
See Who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.**

**Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost.
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the Name of which we boast.**

**Lamb of God for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded,
Who on Him their hope have built.**

Words by Thomas Kelly (1804; alt. 1961)
Music from *Geistliche Volkslieder*, Paderborn (1850)
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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

1 Samuel 16:1–13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for Myself a king among his sons."² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'³ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for Me him

whom I declare to you.”⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”⁵ And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before Him.”⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by.

And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel.

And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”¹² And he sent and brought him in.

Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

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.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

He Will Hold Me Fast

**When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.**

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

**Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.**

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

**For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life;
He will hold me fast;
'Till our faith is turned to sight,
When He comes at last!**

...

***He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.***

***He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918) PUBLIC DOMAIN
Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker
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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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

from the Athanasian Creed

**P: We believe and confess
that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and human, equally.**

**He is God from the essence of the Father
begotten before time;
and He is human from the essence of His mother,
born in time.**

**completely God, completely human
with a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity.**

...

**Although He is God and human
yet Christ is not two, but one.
He is one, however,
not by His divinity being turned into flesh,
but by God's taking humanity to Himself.**

**He is one,
certainly not by the blending of His essence,
but by the unity of His person.
For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both God and human.**

**He suffered for our salvation;
He descended to hell;
He arose from the dead;
He ascended to heaven;
He is seated at the Father's right hand;
from there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

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

As A Beggar I Come To Thee

**As a beggar, I come to Thee,
As a beggar, I come to Thee,
With empty hands, without one plea,
As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**At Thy table I find a feast,
At Thy table I find a feast,
Here come the poor, the lame, the least,
At Thy table, I find a feast.**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?
Precious Savior, how can it be?
Thine own dear blood was shed for me!
Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done,
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done,
Long I to see Thy kingdom come,
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!
With lifted hearts, our prayer is sung:
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

**With lifted hearts, our prayer is sung:
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

Music and words by Luke Morton
© 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

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

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

Meeting Address:

8224 220th 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*

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