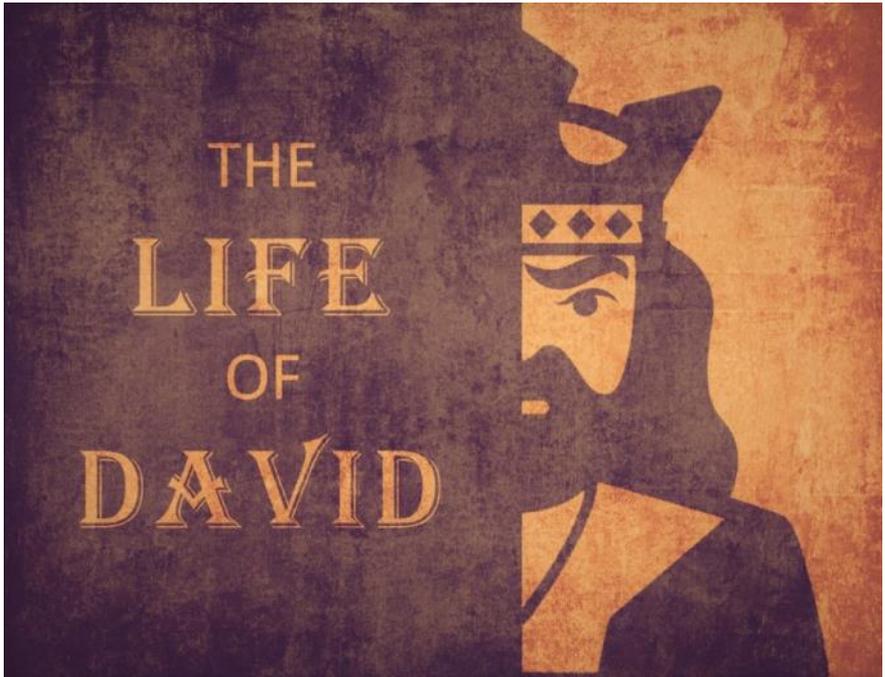




Ascension PCA

May 16, 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

Abraham is called the *friend of God* three times in our Scriptures... Being a friend is the opposite of being an enemy. That simple contrast stands out above all else in Abraham. Abraham was on such terms with his God that he responded without suspicion and without fear. Abraham somehow knew that God was on his side, that God was for him and with him, a friend.

~ *Eugene Peterson*

# 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 63:2–4*

**M:** I have seen You in the sanctuary  
and beheld Your power and Your glory.  
Because Your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify You.

**P:** **I will praise You as long as I live,  
and in Your name I will lift up my hands.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.**

...

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh that day when freed from sinning  
I shall see Thy lovely face.  
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen  
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace.  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry  
Bring Thy promises to pass;  
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me  
Till I'm home with Thee at last.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758).  
Additional words by Bob Kauflin © 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise.  
Music by John Wyeth (1813). PUBLIC DOMAIN.

## *This Is Our God*

**God our Father, full of power,  
Maker of the heavens,  
Maker of the world.  
Forming all things, seen and unseen,  
Truly the Almighty  
Beyond all measure worth;  
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,  
Father, Spirit, Son;  
This is our God!***

***We believe forever He will reign.  
Let the church proclaim:  
This is our God!***

...

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,  
Born unto a virgin,  
Lived a perfect life.  
Greatly suffered, dying for us.  
From the grave He's risen,  
Seated now on high;  
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,  
Father, Spirit, Son;  
This is our God!***

***We believe forever He will reign.  
Let the church proclaim:  
This is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,  
Speaking through the prophets,  
Empowering the Church.  
Life is given by and through Him,  
With the Son and Father,  
Worshipped and adored;  
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,  
Father, Spirit, Son;  
This is our God!***

***We believe forever He will reign.  
Let the church proclaim:  
This is our God!***

Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)  
Words & music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce, Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones  
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## **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.*

# NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

## *John 1:35-51*

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?"

<sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and you will see."

So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his

own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree,

I saw you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father.**

**You are faithful in all Your ways,  
not one word of all Your promises has failed.**

**But we have not been so loyal to You.**

**We have cherished and nourished sinful thoughts,  
and that has resulted in actions  
contrary to Your Word.**

**In Your mercy,**

**show Yourself, once again,  
faithful and just**

**to forgive us our sins**

**and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**for Jesus' sake. 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

*Galatians 1:3–5*

**M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself  
for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age,  
according to the will of our God and Father,  
to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

# 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  
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Publishing / Messenger Hymns

## 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 18:1–4; 19:1–5; 20:1–17, 40–42*

<sup>1</sup> As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. <sup>2</sup> And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.

<sup>3</sup> Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. <sup>4</sup> And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

<sup>1</sup> And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. <sup>2</sup> And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. <sup>3</sup> And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you." <sup>4</sup> And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you.

<sup>5</sup> For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?"

<sup>1</sup> Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" <sup>2</sup> And he said to him, "Far from it! You shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. And why should my father hide this from me? It is not so."

<sup>3</sup> But David vowed again, saying, "Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thinks, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death." <sup>4</sup> Then Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you say, I will do for you."

<sup>5</sup> David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit at table with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field till the third day at evening. <sup>6</sup> If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the clan.' <sup>7</sup> If he says, 'Good!' it will be well with your servant, but if he is angry, then know that harm is determined by him. <sup>8</sup> Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. But if there is guilt in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?" <sup>9</sup> And Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! If I knew that it was determined by my father that harm should come to you, would I not tell you?" <sup>10</sup> Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me if your father answers you roughly?" <sup>11</sup> And Jonathan said to David, "Come, let us go out into the field." So they both went out into the field.

<sup>12</sup> And Jonathan said to David, "The LORD, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? <sup>13</sup> But should it please my father to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also if I do not disclose it to you and send

you away, that you may go in safety. May the LORD be with you, as He has been with my father. <sup>14</sup> If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; <sup>15</sup> and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” <sup>16</sup> And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD take vengeance on David’s enemies.” <sup>17</sup> And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

<sup>40</sup> And Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy and said to him, “Go and carry them to the city.” <sup>41</sup> And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most. <sup>42</sup> Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.’” And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

## 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

*“The Friend”*

*Pastor 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.**

**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-Berg (1855); translated by Ernst W. Olson.  
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Swedish folk melody: PUBLIC DOMAIN

# GOD BUILDS HIS CHURCH

## *Welcoming our Covenant Kids to the Lord's Table*

*Seamus & Eoghan Bailey*

- Do you believe the Bible is God's Word and is to be believed and obeyed?
- Do you acknowledge that you are a sinner and in need of God's grace and mercy?
- Do you accept Jesus as your Lord and only hope for salvation?
- Do you now promise, by the Holy Spirit and with the strength God gives, to live as a follower of Jesus?
- Will you now pray for and serve this church, give to God's work when you are able, and submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

# Sacrament of Baptism

*Inessa Eck, Gabriel and Christian Sepulveda*

## Reception of New Members

*Bob & Lyn Briest, The Eck family,  
Coral, Gabriel & Christian Sepulveda*

- Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?
- Do you acknowledge your need for the grace of God, humbling yourself, offering no morality or righteousness of your own, but asking only for the mercy of God in Christ?
- Do you accept Christ as the sacrifice for your sin, as the Prophet for all your truth, and as the King of all your life, resting on Him and His righteousness alone for your salvation?
- Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling by reliance on the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God?
- Do you promise to support this communion with your prayers and offerings, to strive for its purity and peace, and to submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

*To the Body of Christ: (please stand):*

M: Do you as a congregation, now welcome these brothers and sisters as members of this body?

**P: We do.**

M: Do you promise to take seriously your responsibilities to build up them up and to seek to practice with them true Christian community and true Biblical church life?

**P: We do.**

# 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

*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.*

# SONG OF MEDITATION

## *All I Have Is Christ*

**I once was lost in darkest night,  
Yet thought I knew the way;  
The sin that promised joy and life  
Had led me to the grave.**

**I had no hope that You would own,  
A rebel to Your will.  
And if You had not loved me first,  
I would refuse You still.**

**But as I ran my hell-bound race,  
Indifferent to the cost,  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross.**

**And I beheld God's love displayed,  
You suffered in my place,  
You bore the wrath reserved for me,  
Now all I know is grace.**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

**Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone,  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands  
Could never come from me.**

**Oh Father use my ransomed life  
In any way You choose,  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is You.**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!  
Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin  
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# 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

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

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# **ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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Please make sure that checks are made out to  
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