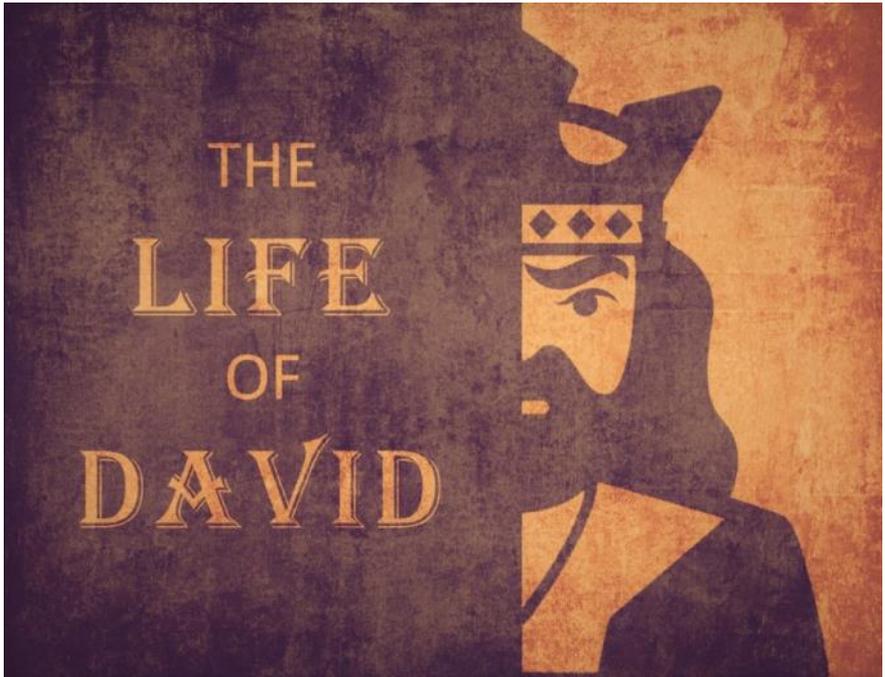




Ascension PCA

May 30, 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

*A sanctuary is a place for paying attention to God...
a place where the truth of God
is preserved and honored,
a place for remembering the events
in which God has been clearly
active and powerful.*

~ 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

Colossians 1:15–20 | Psalm 145:1

M: [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For by Him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities —
all things were created through Him and for Him.
And He is before all things,
and in Him all things hold together.
And He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything He might be preeminent.
For in Him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell,
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of His cross.

**P: We will extol You, our God and King,
and bless Your Name forever and ever!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Glorious Christ

**The radiance of the Father
Before the dawn of time;
You spoke and all creation came to be.
The molecules and planets
Reveal Your great design,
And every one was made
So we could see,
So we could see:**

***You are the glorious Christ,
The greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.***

***No greater sacrifice
Than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
Who praise You day and night,
Glorious Christ.***

**You left the air of heaven
To breathe the dust of earth,
And dwell among the outcast and the poor.
You came to be forsaken
And died to take our curse,
So You could be our joy forevermore,
forevermore.**

***You are the glorious Christ,
The greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.***

***No greater sacrifice
Than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
Who praise You day and night,
Glorious Christ.***

All Creatures of Our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
*O praise Him! Alleluia!***

**Thou, burning sun with golden beam,
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam,
*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**All the redeemed washed by His blood,
Come and rejoice in His great love,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin,
Case all your burdens now on Him,
*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**He shall return in pow'r to reign,
Heaven and earth will join to say,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King,
*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia!*
*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Original words (v. 1–2) by St. Francis of Assisi, translated by William Henry Draper (1926).
Additional words (v. 3–4) by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.
16th Century German tune, adapted by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.
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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 2:13–25

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

¹⁶ And He told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make My Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume me."

¹⁸ So the Jews said to Him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

²¹ But He was speaking about the temple of His body.

²² When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs that He was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He himself knew what was in man.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Most High and Glorious God,
We are full of toiling and fear,
easily troubled and distressed,
but You are forever at perfect peace.**

**You are the same yesterday, today, and forever.
You govern every atom in this universe
with great care,
working all things together
for the good of Your people,
and the glory of Your Name.**

**Father, we thank You, worship You,
and proclaim that You are worthy
of all our trust and loyalty.**

**We confess to You that we are easily distracted
by the world around us.**

**We doubt and accuse You when we suffer —
our faith is weak.**

**Forgive us for the sin we embrace
because we fail to trust that You are good,
always for us and never against us.**

**Grant us more grace to transfer our trust to Jesus,
who has suffered for us that we might be Yours,
who still walks with us by the Spirit.**

This we pray ... in Jesus' Name. 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

Hebrews 9:11–12

M: ...when Christ appeared as a high priest...
He entered once for all into the holy places,
not by means of the blood of goats and calves
but by means of His own blood,
thus securing an eternal redemption.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O My Soul Arise

**Arise, my soul, arise,
Shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice
On my behalf appears.**

**Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.**

**He ever lives above
For me to intercede;
His all-redeeming love,
His precious blood to plead.**

**His blood atoned for every race,
His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.**

***O my soul, arise,
Behold the risen Christ,
Your Great High Priest,
Your spotless sacrifice.***

***O my soul, arise,
God owns you as His child;
Shake off your guilty fears,
My soul, arise.***

**Five bleeding wounds He bears,
Received on Calvary.**

**They pour effectual prayers,
They strongly plead for me:**

**"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Don't let that ransomed sinner die!"**

***O my soul, arise,
Behold the risen Christ,
Your Great High Priest,
Your spotless sacrifice.***

***O my soul, arise,
God owns you as His child;
Shake off your guilty fears,
My soul, arise.***

**My God is reconciled,
His pard'ning voice I hear.
He owns me as His child,
I can no longer fear.**

**With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.**

***O my soul, arise,
Behold the risen Christ,
Your Great High Priest,
Your spotless sacrifice.***

***O my soul, arise,
God owns you as His child;
Shake off your guilty fears,
My soul, arise.***

Words and music by Charles Wesley & Eric McAllister
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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

Followed by the Lord's Prayer

**P: Our Father, Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil
for Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever,
Amen.**

READING OF THE WORD

1 Samuel 21:1–15 | 22:1–5

¹ Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?"

² And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place." ³ Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here."

⁴ And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread — if the young men have kept themselves from women."

⁵ And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?"

⁶ So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the LORD, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

⁷ Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen.

⁸ Then David said to Ahimelech, "Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste." ⁹ And the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here."

And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me."

¹⁰ And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. ¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances,

'Saul has struck down his thousands,
and David his ten thousands?'"

¹² And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. ¹³ So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. ¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? ¹⁵ Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

¹ David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

² And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

³ And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." ⁴ And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. ⁵ Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

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 Fugitive"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES

SONG OF RESPONSE

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

**God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.**

**Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.**

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.**

**Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.**

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

**Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.**

**His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.**

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

Words by William Cowper and Matt Papa. Music by Matt Papa.
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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

from the Belgic Confession, Art. 35

- M:** Our Savior Jesus Christ
has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper
to nourish and sustain those
who are born again and grafted
into His family: His church.
Christ has instituted
an earthly and visible bread
as the sacrament of His body
and wine as the sacrament of His blood.
- P:** **Just as truly as we take and hold
the sacraments in our hands
and eat and drink them in our mouths,
by which our life is then sustained,
so truly we receive into our souls,
for our spiritual life,
the true body and true blood of Christ,
our only Savior.
We receive these by faith,
which is the hand and mouth of our souls.**

M: This banquet is a spiritual table
at which Christ communicates Himself to us
with all His benefits.

**P: By the use of this holy sacrament
we are moved to a fervent love
of God and our neighbors.**

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

Behold the Lamb

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us —
and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.**

**The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Torn for you —
eat and remember:
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.**

**The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you —
drink and remember:
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.**

**So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.**

**And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond —**

and to remember:

**Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.**

**As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.**

**As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.**

Words and music Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend
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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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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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