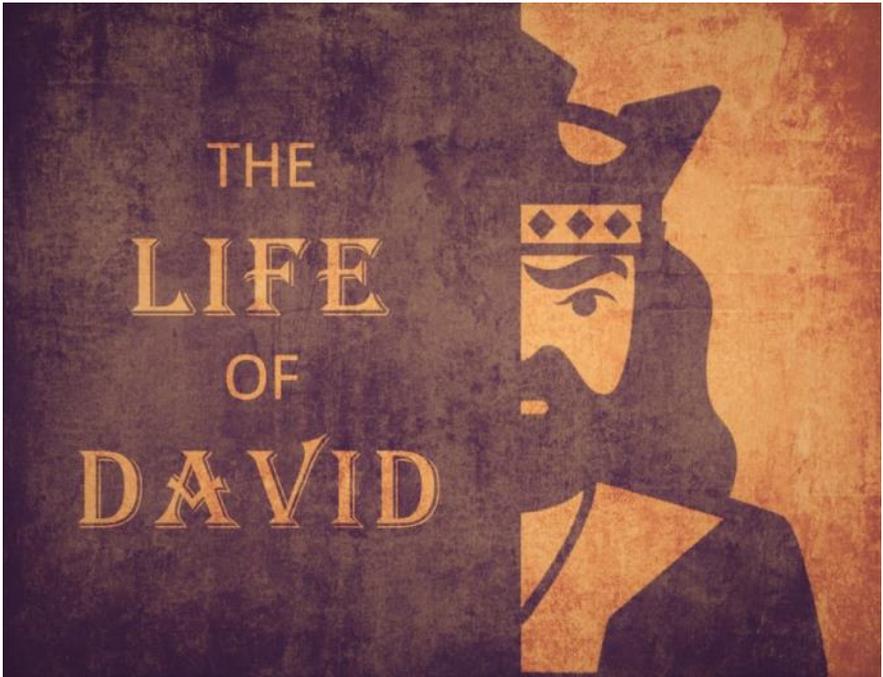




Ascension PCA

June 6, 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 Lord does not promise
that we will never die
for the kingdom of God,
but that the kingdom of God will never die.*
~ Dale Ralph Davis

*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.*
~ Jesus

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 92:1–5, 12–13

M: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
and Your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

**P: For You, O LORD, have made me glad
by Your work;
at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.
How great are Your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!**

M: The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love, and power.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will save me from my sin.
By the riches of His merit,
There is joy and life in Him.***

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will save me from my sin.
By the riches of His merit,
There is joy and life in Him.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Lo! The incarnate God ascended
Pleads the merit of His blood;
Venture on Him, venture wholly;
Let no other trust intrude.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.***

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.)
Music by William Walker, *The Southern Harmony* (1835)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Only You

**You have known my every situation,
And Your goodness sustains me, Lord;
I will bow in humble expectation
Of Your presence in the storm.**

**Yes, there will be trial and tribulation,
And You'll grant me breath to persevere.
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,
Of the day You'll dry these tears.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,
Yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.
All these things too wonderful to speak of,
Fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

***Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,
You expose the evils of the night.
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,
Only You are clothed in light.***

**Here I am in the valley of decision,
I know You hear me when I call,
I repent of my prideful disposition;
Where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall
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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 3:1-21

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?"

¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak of what We know, and bear witness to what We have seen, but you do not receive Our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from John 14:9 & Matthew 13:13-17

P: Heavenly Father, have mercy on us.

We have seen Your Son, but our eyes are dim.

We have heard Him, but our ears are dull.

We have known Him, but our hearts are faint.

Comfort and pride blind us.

Lusts and fears deafen us.

Careless hearts deaden us.

So we hear, but we do not understand.

And we see, but we do not perceive.

Have mercy on us and heal us.

**Give us eyes to see and ears to hear
the Christ, the Son of God. 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 3:16

M: For God so loved the world
that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish but have eternal life.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

My Jesus, I Love Thee

**My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death;
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown upon my brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

Words by William R. Featherstone (1864). Music by Adoniram J. Gordon (1876)
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

1 Samuel 21:7 / 22:6–23

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.

⁶ Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him. ⁷ And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, ⁸ that all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day." ⁹ Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, ¹⁰ and he inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

¹¹ Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king.

¹² And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." ¹³ And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?" ¹⁴ Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house? ¹⁵ Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little." ¹⁶ And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house."

¹⁷ And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the LORD. ¹⁸ Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. ¹⁹ And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.

²⁰ But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. ²¹ And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD. ²² And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house. ²³ Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."

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 Villain"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Let Your Kingdom Come

**Your glorious cause, O God,
engages our hearts.**

**May Jesus Christ be known
wherever we are.**

**We ask not for ourselves,
but for Your renown.**

**The cross has saved us so we pray:
"Your kingdom come!"**

*Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your Name.*

*Let Your song be heard
Everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come!*

**Give us Your strength, O God,
and courage to speak.**

**Perform Your wondrous deeds
through those who are weak.**

**Lord, use us as You want,
whatever the test;**

**By grace we'll preach Your Gospel
'till our dying breath.**

*Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your Name.*

*Let Your song be heard
Everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come!*

Words and music by Bob Kauflin
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SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

To the Candidate:

Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?

Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?

Do you accept the office of elder in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?

Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?

Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

To the Congregation:

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as an elder, and do you promise to yield them all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which his office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles them?

If you do, please raise your right hand.

Laying on of Hands and Prayer

Right Hand of Fellowship and Pronouncement

Exhortation

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

*based on Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28;
1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Revelation 22:13*

**P: This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures,
that He was buried,
that He was raised on the third day,
and that He appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
He is our Lord and our God.**

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

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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Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
Ascension Presbyterian Church
and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.