



# Ascension PCA

**June 13, 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

This hill, though high, I covet to ascend;  
The difficulty will not me offend.  
For I perceive the way to Life lies here.  
Come, pluck up, heart; let's neither faint nor fear.  
Better, though difficult, the right way to go,  
Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.

~ John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*

# 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

*from Colossians 2:13–14; Psalm 32:11*

M: Grace and peace to you who were dead in your sins,  
for God has made you alive with Christ  
and forgiven all your sins.  
Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;  
sing all you who are now upright in heart!

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise Him, for He is  
thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear,  
Now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea,  
so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen  
How thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who with  
marvelous wisdom hath made thee,  
Decked thee with health and with  
loving hand guided and stayed thee.  
How oft in grief  
Hath not He brought thee relief  
Spreading His wings to o'er shade thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, O let all that  
is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him.  
Let the amen  
Sound from His people again,  
Gladly fore'er we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863)  
Music from *Stralsund Gesangbuch* (1665)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## *Our Great God*

**Eternal God, unchanging,  
mysterious and unknown;  
Your boundless love, unfailing,  
in grace and mercy shown.  
Bright seraphim in endless flight  
around Your glorious throne;  
They raise their voices day and night  
in praise to You alone.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!  
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Lord, we are weak and frail,  
helpless in the storm.  
Surround us with Your angels,  
hold us in Your arms.  
Our cold and ruthless enemy,  
his pleasure is our harm.  
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee  
before our Sovereign God.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!  
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Let every creature in the sea  
and every flying bird,  
Let every mountain, every field  
and valley of the earth;  
Let all the moons and all the stars  
in all the universe  
Sing praises to the living God  
who rules them by His Word.**

**Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!**  
**Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!**

**Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!**  
**Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!**

Words & music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell  
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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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

### *Ezekiel 34:11-16*

<sup>11</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out.

<sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I Myself will be the shepherd of My sheep, and I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God,  
in You we live and move and have our being;  
where could we go from Your presence?  
You know all things,  
nothing is hidden from Your sight.  
You know then, that it is from the shadows  
of our sinfulness  
that we look to You this morning.**

**O, how we praise You  
for the light of the gospel  
by which You have penetrated our dark world,  
paid our awful debt of sin,  
and brought us to Yourself.**

**O Lord, forgive our sins  
and renew us in our relationship to You.**

**Cause us to walk in the light  
as You are in the light,  
that we might once again  
enjoy true fellowship with You, our God,  
and with one another.**

**In Jesus' name 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

*Isaiah 55:6-7*

M: Seek the LORD while He may be found;  
call upon Him while He is near;  
let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD,  
that He may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*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.  
When the race is complete,  
Still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

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

## *Luke 19:1–10*

<sup>1</sup> He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was about to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he hurried and came down and received Him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup> And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." <sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

# 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

*"Jesus Seeks and Saves the Lost"*

*Reverend David Birnie*

# PRAYER



# SONG OF RESPONSE

## *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*

**My faith has found a resting place,  
Not in device nor creed;  
I trust the ever-living One,  
His wounds for me shall plead.**

***I need no other argument,  
I need no other plea;  
It is enough that Jesus died  
And that He died for me.***

**Enough for me that Jesus saves,  
This ends my fear and doubt;  
A sinful soul I come to Him,  
He'll never cast me out.**

***I need no other argument,  
I need no other plea;  
It is enough that Jesus died  
And that He died for me.***

**My great Physician heals the sick,  
The lost He came to save;  
For me His precious blood He shed,  
For me His life He gave.**

***I need no other argument,  
I need no other plea;  
It is enough that Jesus died  
And that He died for me.***

Words by Lidie H. Edmunds (1891; Alt. 1990)

Music by André Grétry (1741-1831); arr. by William J. Kirkpatrick (1891)

PUBLIC DOMAIN

# 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

*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.*

## 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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