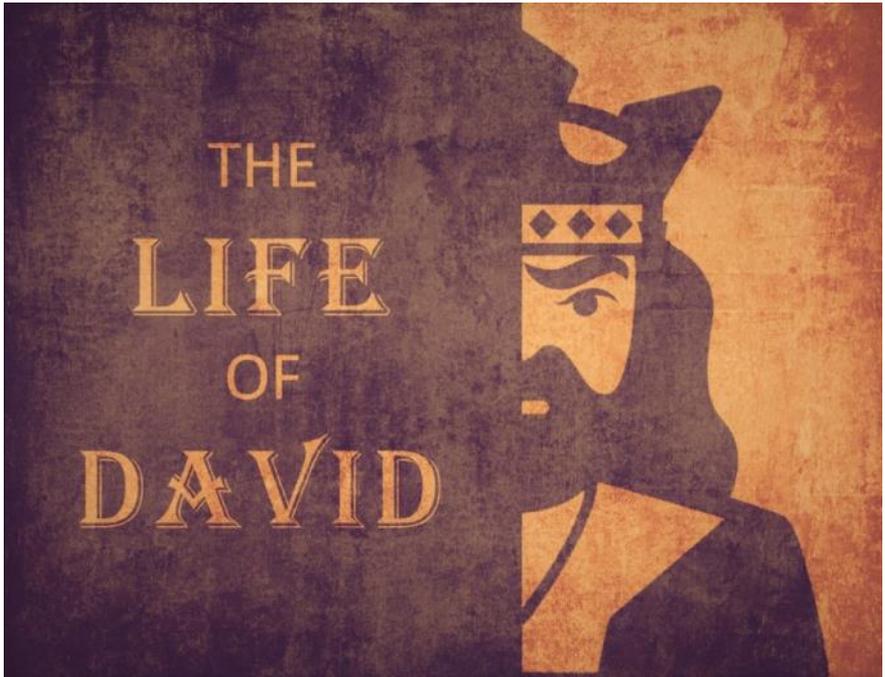




Ascension PCA

June 20, 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 debtor to mercy alone,
of covenant mercy I sing;
nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
my person and offering to bring.
The terrors of law and of God;
with me can have nothing to do;
my Savior’s obedience and blood;
hide all my transgressions from view.
My name from the palms of His hands;
eternity will not erase;
impressed on His heart it remains,
in marks of indelible grace...
Things future, nor things that are now,
nor all things below or above,
can make Him His purpose forgo,
or sever my soul from His love.”*

“A Debtor to Mercy Alone” by Augustus Toplady

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

Nehemiah 9:5b,6

M: Stand up and bless the LORD your God
from everlasting to everlasting.
Blessed be Your glorious name,
which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

P: **You are the LORD, You alone.**
You have made the heaven,
the heaven of heavens, with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them;
and You preserve all of them;
and the host of heaven worships You.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Across the Lands

You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice!

You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.

...

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered,
That the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

**With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting vict'ry from the grave
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2002 Thankyou Music

Praise the Lord Ye Heavens

**Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore Him;
Praise Him angels, in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.**

...

**Praise the Lord for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed;
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made.**

***All creation join the song of praise.
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
All of our days!***

**Praise the Lord! for He is glorious;
Never shall His promise fail;
God hath made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.**

***All creation join the song of praise.
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
All of our days!***

***Glory, glory,
All glory to You, Lord!***

***Glory, glory,
All glory to You, Lord!***

***Glory, glory,
All glory to You, Lord!***

**Praise the God of our salvation!
Hosts on high, His power proclaim;
Heaven and earth, and all creation
Laud and magnify His Name.**

***All creation join the song of praise,
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
All of our days!***

***And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
All of our days!***

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 3:22–36

²² After this Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, and He remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness — look, He is baptizing, and all are going to Him." ²⁷ John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all.

³² He bears witness to what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives His testimony. ³³ Whoever receives His testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

³⁴ For He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Great God,
You have shown us the way of life
through Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**We confess with shame
our slowness to learn of Him,
our failure to follow Him,
and our reluctance to bear the cross.**

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. 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

Ephesians 2:4-5

**M: But God, being rich in mercy,
because of the great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ —
by grace you have been saved.**

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 24:1–22

¹ When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi."² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks.

³ And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave.⁴ And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe.⁶ He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed."

⁷ So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

⁸ Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. ⁹ And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm?' ¹⁰ Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.'

¹¹ See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it.

¹² May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. ¹³ As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. ¹⁴ After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! ¹⁵ May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

¹⁶ As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. ¹⁷ He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil.

¹⁸ And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. ¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.

²⁰ And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. ²¹ Swear to me therefore by the LORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.**

**Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776); altered by Thomas Cotterill (1815)
Music by Thomas Hastings (1830)
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.

SONG OF MEDITATION

The Wonderful Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet?
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

***O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross;
Bids me come and die
And find that I may truly live.***

***O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here
By grace draw near
And bless Your name.***

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

***O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross;
Bids me come and die
And find that I may truly live.***

***O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here
By grace draw near
And bless Your name.***

**Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words & music by Chris Tomlin | Isaac Watts | J. D. Walt | Jesse Reeves | Lowell Mason
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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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Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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