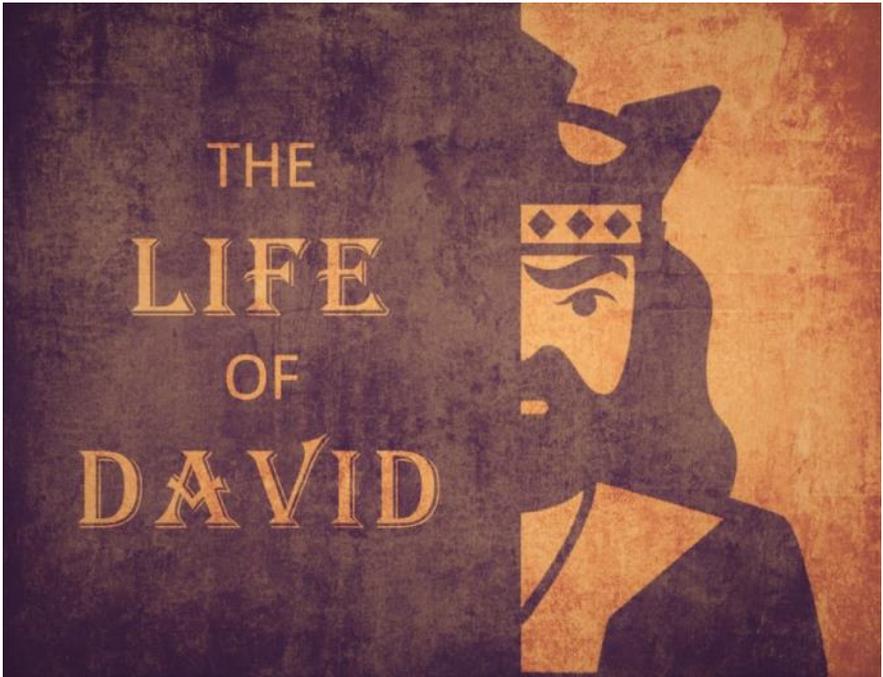




Ascension PCA

June 27, 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 gospel is
so foolish (according to my natural wisdom),
so scandalous (according to my conscience),
and so incredible (according to my timid heart),
that it is a daily battle
to believe the full scope of it as I should.
There is simply no other way to compete with
the forebodings of my conscience,
the condemnings of my heart,
and the lies of the world and the Devil
than to overwhelm such things
with the daily rehearsings of the gospel.

~ Milton Vincent

*O my Savior, help me.
I am so slow to learn, **so prone to forget**, so weak to climb;
I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights;
I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days,
my poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race,
my sullied conscience, my wasted opportunities.
I am blind while light shines around me:
take the scales from my eyes,
grind to dust the evil heart of unbelief...*

~ The Valley of Vision

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 1 & 1 Timothy 1:17

M: Let us give thanks to the Father,
Who has qualified us to share
in the inheritance of the saints
in the kingdom of light.

For He has rescued us from
the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom
of the Son He loves,
in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.

**P: Now to the eternal, immortal, invisible,
the only God...
be honor and glory for ever and ever! Amen.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
Hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
The Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting,
And silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice, like mountains
High soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains
Of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest,
To both great and small;
In all life Thou livest,
The true life of all.
We blossom and flourish
As leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish —
But naught changeth Thee.**

**Great Father of glory,
Pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee,
All veiling their sight.
All praise we would render,
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
Of light hideth Thee!**

Traditional Welsh hymn
Words by Walter Chalmers Smith (1867)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Great Is Our God

**Come let us praise Him,
Let us kneel at the throne of our God.
Through His Son our salvation was bought
With mercy and grace.**

**Come let us bow down,
In His hands are the depths of the earth.
With one voice we proclaim His great worth,
Lord our God!**

***And we will seek Him,
our Rock of Salvation.
Morning by morning
with thanksgiving we come.
And we will bow down,
with creation we cry out.
In daylight and darkness
we sing to the Lord.***

***Great is our God,
Great is our God,
Great is our God.***

**Lord of all nations,
We will stand at the end of our days
In Your courts and declare Your great ways,
In Spirit and Truth.**

**We long for Your kingdom,
Bring Your thunder and gather the earth.
All who tremble will tell of Your worth,
Lord our God!**

***And we will seek Him,
our Rock of Salvation.
Morning by morning
with thanksgiving we come.
And we will bow down,
with creation we cry out.
In daylight and darkness
we sing to the Lord.***

***And we will seek Him,
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we sing to the Lord.***

***Great is our God,
Great is our God,
Great is our God.***

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 4:1-26

¹ Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷ The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Great and Merciful God,
You have shown us the way of life
through Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Yet we confess to You...
our slowness to learn of Him,
our failure to follow Him,
and our reluctance to bear the cross
He calls us to.
Have mercy on us, LORD, and forgive us.
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.*

THE GOOD NEWS

Romans 8:35, 38–39

M: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

The Power of the Cross

**Oh, to see the dawn
of the darkest day.
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.**

**Oh, to see the pain
written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought,
ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
We stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Now the daylight flees,
now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
We stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Oh, to see my name
written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love!**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Son of God — slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross!***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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 25:2–35

² And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³ Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite. ⁴ David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.

⁵ So David sent ten young men. And David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal and greet him in my name. ⁶ And thus you shall greet him:

'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. ⁷ I hear that you have shearers. Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel. ⁸ Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

⁹ When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David, and then they waited.

¹⁰ And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters.

¹¹ Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" ¹² So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this. ¹³ And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

¹⁴ But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them. ¹⁵ Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. ¹⁶ They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. ¹⁷ Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him."

¹⁸ Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. ¹⁹ And she said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I come after

you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. ²⁰ And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. ²¹ Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. ²² God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

²³ When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. ²⁴ She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. ²⁵ Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent. ²⁶ Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal. ²⁷ And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. ²⁸ Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. ²⁹ If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the LORD your God. And the lives of your enemies He shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. ³⁰ And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, ³¹ my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant."

³² And David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me!

³³ Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand! ³⁴ For as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal so much as one male." ³⁵ Then David received from her hand what she had brought him. And he said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have obeyed your voice, and I have granted your petition."

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 Fool"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me
save that Thou art —
Thou my best thought
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom
and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and
Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling
and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance
now and always:
Thou and Thou only,
first in my heart,
High King of Heaven,
my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven,
my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.
Still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905), versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)
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

adapted from The Valley of Vision, "Bounty"

**P: Our God rules all things
in wisdom, love and power.
He has made summer and winter,
day and night,
so that each of these revolutions
serves our welfare
and is full of His care and kindness.
But as the stars fade before the rising sun,
He has eclipsed all benefits
with the wisdom and grace
that purposed our eternal redemption.
By His great mercy, God laid our salvation
on His mighty and willing Son, our Savior;
One that is able to save to the uttermost.
His name is Jesus.
By His grace, His blood cleanses us from our sin.
God imputes to us His righteousness,
which justifies the guilty,
and gives us title to eternal life
and possession of the Holy Spirit.
By this Spirit of life-giving wisdom and power
we have faith to grasp God's promises,
rejoice in our hope,
turn from evil,
and live for the glory of our Savior.**

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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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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Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

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Please make sure that checks are made out to
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to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.