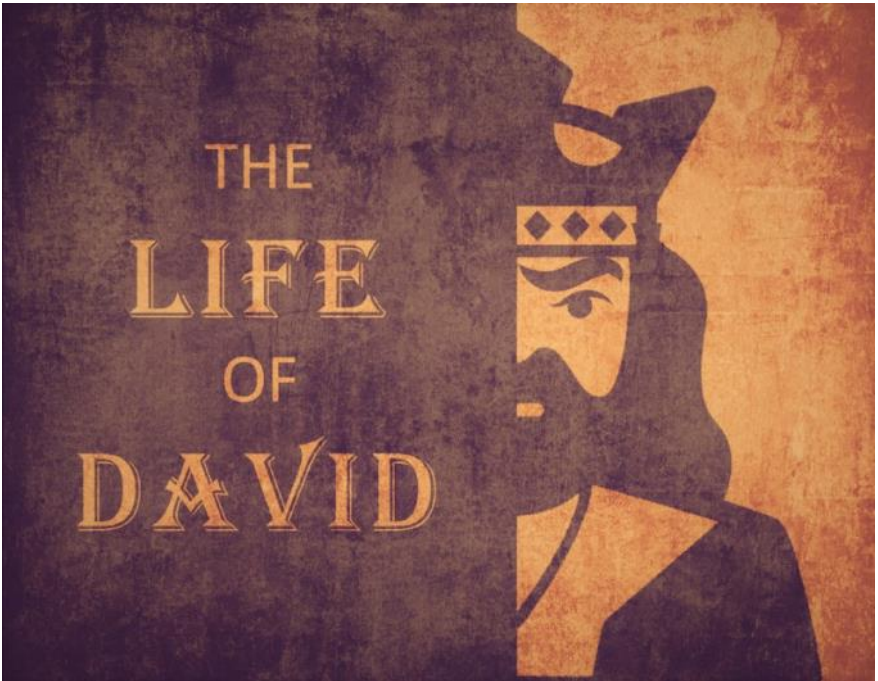




Ascension PCA

July 11, 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

*If our purpose in attending church
is to meet with God,
then we dare not approach
with carelessness.*

~ John Sartelle

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

Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24, 28–29

M: For you have not come to what may be touched,
a blazing fire and darkness and gloom
and tempest and the sound of a trumpet
and a voice whose words made the hearers beg
that no further messages be spoken to them...

But you have come to Mount Zion
and to the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
and to the assembly of the firstborn
who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God, the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks
a better word than the blood of Abel.

**P: Therefore let us be grateful for receiving
a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship,
with reverence and awe,
for our God is a consuming fire.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

How Great Thou Art

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.**

***Then sings my soul,
my Savior God, to Thee:***

***How great Thou art,
how great Thou art!***

***Then sings my soul,
my Savior God, to Thee:***

***How great Thou art,
how great Thou art!***

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.**

***Then sings my soul,
my Savior God, to Thee:***

***How great Thou art,
how great Thou art!***

***Then sings my soul,
my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art!***

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"**

***Then sings my soul,
my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul,
my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art!***

Words by Carl Gustav Boberg; translated by Stuart K. Hine (1949)
Swedish Folk Melody, arr. by Stuart K. Kline (1949)
© 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. by Hope Publishing Company

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
© 2006 Sovereign Grace Praise

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 4:46 – 5:18

⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where He had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Him and asked Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." ⁴⁹ The official said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. ⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was

recovering.⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household.⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did when He had come from Judea to Galilee.

¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades.³ In these lay a multitude of invalids — blind, lame, and paralyzed.⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?"⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me."⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk."⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath.¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed."¹¹ But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'"¹² They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'"¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Lord, You come to us,
but we do not recognize You;
You call, but we do not follow;
You command, but we do not obey,
You bless us, but we do not thank You.**

Please forgive and help us.

**Lord, You accept us,
but we do not accept others;
You forgive us,
but we do not forgive those who wrong us;
You love us,
but we do not love our neighbors.**

Please forgive and help us.

**Lord, You taught us to pray
"Your kingdom come,"
but we are too busy building a kingdom of our own;
You identified yourself with outcasts,
the needy, and the poor,
but we are too busy for others;
You suffered and died for the sake of all,
but we are so often preoccupied with ourselves.**

**Please forgive and help us,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

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.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

He Will Hold Me Fast

**When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.**

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

**Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.**

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

**For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life;
He will hold me fast;
'Till our faith is turned to sight,
When He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.***

***He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918) PUBLIC DOMAIN
Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker
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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

2 Samuel 6:1–15

¹ David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ² And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts Who sits enthroned on the cherubim. ³ And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, ⁴ with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵ And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. ⁶ And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. ⁷ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸ And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. ⁹ And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" ¹⁰ So David was not willing to take the ark of the LORD into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹¹ And the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

¹² And it was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. ¹³ And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. ¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

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 Holy One”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES

SONG OF RESPONSE

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.**

**O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.**

**Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh come, lead us, with mighty hand
Through exile to the promised land.**

**There shall we all our praises bring
Ever to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore,
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.**

Words from Old German spiritual song (1623); tr. by Martin L. Seltz (1909-1967)
Music by Nathan Partain © 2009, 2003, UBP

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 Ephesians 2:1-10

**P: We were dead in our transgressions and sins,
in which we used to live
when we followed the ways of this world,
of the ruler of the kingdom of the air,
the spirit who is now at work
in those who are disobedient.**

**All of us lived among them at one time,
gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature
and following its desires and thoughts.
Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.**

**But because of His great love for us,
God, who is rich in mercy,
made us alive with Christ
even when we were dead in transgressions.
It is by grace we have been saved.**

**And God raised us up with Christ
and seated us with Him
in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,
in order that in the coming ages
He might show the incomparable riches
of His grace,
expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

**For it is by grace we have been saved,
through faith —
and this not from ourselves,
it is the gift of God —**

**It is not by works.
None of us can boast.
For we are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

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

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

**How deep the Father's love for us;
How vast beyond all measure,
That He would give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.**

**How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross;
My guilt upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.**

**It was my sin that held Him there,
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.**

**Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Words & music by Stuart Townend
© 1995 ThankYou Music

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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Please make sure that checks are made out to
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