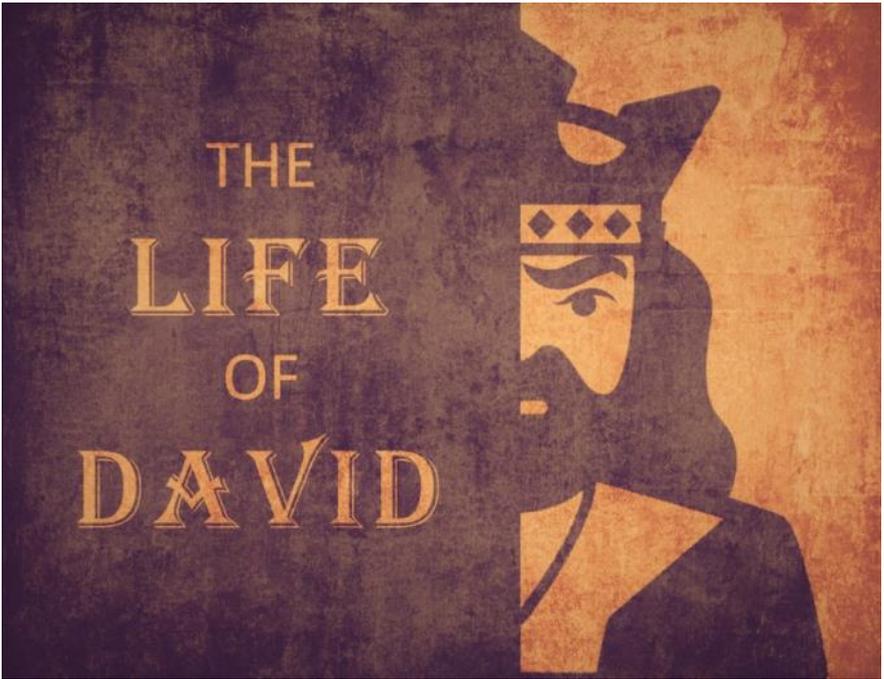




Ascension PCA

July 18, 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

*Jesus is no longer visible upon earth;
but He has promised His spiritual presence
to abide with His word, ordinances and people,
to the end of time.*

*Weary and heavy laden souls have now no need
to take a long journey to seek Him,
but He is always near them,
and in a spiritual manner,
where His Gospel is preached. . .*

Therefore, come unto Him.

That is, raise your hearts,

and breathe forth your complaints to Him ...

*He is just such a Savior as your circumstances require,
as you yourself could wish for.*

~ John Newton

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 Ephesians 1

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is good and right to do so.

**Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ...
...for He chose us in Him
before the creation of the world
to be holy and blameless in His sight.**

**In love He predestined us
to be adopted as His sons
through Jesus Christ,
in accordance with His pleasure and will —
to the praise of His glorious grace
which He has freely given us
in the One He loves.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

The Church's One Foundation

**The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.**

**From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.**

**'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till, with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.**

**O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.**

Words by Samuel John Stone (1866)
Music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1864)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, People of the Risen King

**Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.**

***Rejoice, Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.**

***Rejoice, Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age:
Our God is all in all!**

***Rejoice, Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Rejoice, Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend
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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 5:19-47

¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him, so that you may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will.

²² For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

²⁵ "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself. ²⁷ And He has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice ²⁹ and come out,

those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

³⁰ "I can do nothing on My own. As I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. ³¹ If I alone bear witness about Myself, My testimony is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness about Me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ³³ You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given Me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about Me that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent Me has Himself borne witness about Me. His voice you have never heard, His form you have never seen, ³⁸ and you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe the One whom He has sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive glory from people. ⁴² But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. ⁴³ I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Heavenly Father,

**You alone are the Creator
and Sustainer of all things.**

**It is our privilege to live under Your omnipotence,
righteousness, wisdom, mercy, and grace.**

**You love us with better love
than any we could ever know here on earth,
and we stand in awe of Your power
and commitment to cherish us.**

**Yet even though we have tasted Your goodness,
we confess that we are a people
who would rather trust in ourselves.**

**We place our hope
in our own talents and abilities,
in relationships with people we admire and love,
in our jobs and good health,
in our economic value and academic abilities.**

**Father, we are worshippers of ourselves,
and we find our hearts full of anxiety
and depression when we discover
that we cannot save ourselves.**

**Jesus, thank You for suffering the many agonies
of life in a fallen world on our behalf,
and for remaining faithful and obedient
in temptation, grief and loss.**

**Holy Spirit, teach us to be still and know
that You are God and we are not.**

**Give us true grief for the ways we sin against You,
and fill us with repentance and hope.**

**Open our eyes to see Your faithfulness and power;
Your great love and unending patience;
Your relentless determination to pursue us
and captivate us with the truth of the gospel.**

Forgive us and lead us, 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

from Romans 4:24–25

M: God accounts all sinners who confess the Name of Christ and believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead as sinless. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. In Him our sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, Thank You

**The myst'ry of the cross I cannot comprehend,
The agonies of Calvary.**

**You the perfect, Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me.**

***Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.***

***The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.***

***Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.***

**By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near;
Your enemy You've made Your friend.**

**Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace,
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.**

***Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.***

***The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.***

***Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.***

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

2 Samuel 7:1–17

¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build Me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for My dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"' ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over My people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your

fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

¹⁵ but My steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

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 Promise Keeper”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES

SONG OF RESPONSE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Words by Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1923)

Music by William Marion Runyan (1923)

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

from Philippians 2

**P: Christ Jesus, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be grasped,
but made Himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled himself
and became obedient to death —
even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place
and gave Him the name
that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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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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.