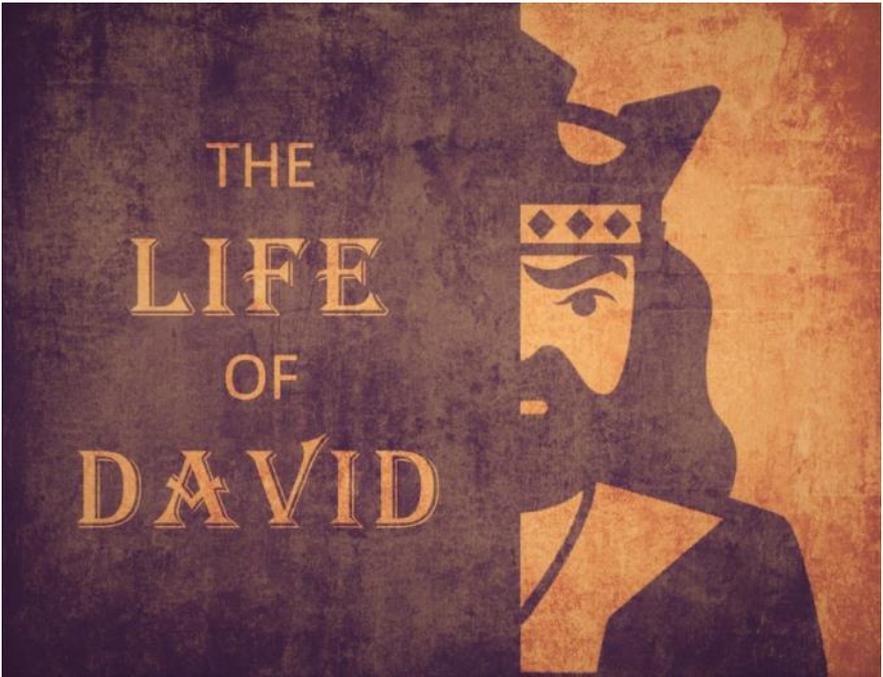




Ascension PCA

July 25, 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

"Abide in Him."

You did well to come; you do better to abide.
Who would, after seeking the King's palace,
be content to stand in the door,
when he is invited in to dwell in the King's presence,
and share with Him in all the glory of His royal life?
Oh, let us enter in and abide,
and enjoy to the full all the rich supply
His wondrous love hath prepared for us!

~ Andrew Murray

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 Psalm 18:1–3, 31–32

**P: We love You, O LORD, our strength.
The LORD is our rock and our fortress
and our deliverer,
our God, our rock, in whom we take refuge,
our shield, and the horn of our salvation,
our stronghold.
We call upon the LORD,
who is worthy to be praised,
and we are saved from our enemies.
For who is God, but the LORD?
And who is a rock except our God? —
the God who equipped us with strength
and made our way blameless.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 66

**All lands to God in joyful sounds,
Aloft your voices raise;
Sing forth the honor of His name,
And glorious make His praise.
Sing forth the honor of His name,
And glorious make His praise.**

**Yes, all the earth shall worship Thee
And unto Thee shall sing;
And to Thy name most glorious,
Their songs of praise shall bring.
And to Thy name most glorious,
Their songs of praise shall bring.**

**O all ye people, bless our God;
Aloud proclaim His praise,
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
Our feet from sliding stays.
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
Our feet from sliding stays.**

Words based on *Scottish Psalter* (1650), the *Book of Psalms* (1871), and *The Psalter* (1912).
©1994 *Trinity Psalter*, Crown & Covenant Publications

The God of Abra'am Praise

**The God of Abra'am praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days
And God of love.**

**Jehovah, great I AM!
By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred Name
Forever blest.**

**The God of Abra'am praise,
At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys
At His right hand.**

**I all on earth forsake,
Its wisdom, fame and pow'r;
And Him my only portion make,
My shield and tow'r.**

**He by Himself hath sworn;
I on this oath depend.
I shall on eagles' wings upborne,
To heaven ascend.
I shall behold His face;
I shall His pow'r adore,
And sing the wonders of His grace,
Forevermore.**

**The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high:
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"
They ever cry.**

**Hail, Abra'am's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays;
All might and majesty are Thine
And endless praise.**

Words by Thomas Olivers (1770). Music by Nathan Partain (2003)
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2003 Partain, Nathan

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 6:1-21

¹ After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following Him, because they saw the signs that He was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up His eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward Him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for He himself knew what He would do. ⁷ Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when He had given thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, He told His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up

and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that He had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by Himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were glad to take Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Great and Merciful Father,
it is Your will that we should love You
with heart, soul, mind, strength,
and our neighbor as ourselves,
but we are not sufficient for these things.**

We confess that we fall short.

**We confess that our affections continually
turn away from You:**

**from purity to lust,
from freedom to slavery,
from compassion to indifference,
from fullness to emptiness.**

Have mercy on us.

**Order our lives by Your holy Word
and make Your commandments
the joy of our hearts.**

**Conform us to the image of Your loving Son, Jesus,
that we may shine before the world to Your glory.
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

adapted from Zephaniah 3

M: People of God, sing!

Give a loud shout and be glad!

Let your hearts be full of joy.

The LORD has stopped punishing you.

He has turned from your sins

and enemies away from you.

The LORD is King of all. He is with you.

He is mighty and will save you.

He will take great delight in you.

The quietness of His love will calm you.

He will sing with joy because of you.

P: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

My Redeemer

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,
How my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free.***

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (© 2005).

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 9:1–13

¹ And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" ² Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." ³ And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." ⁴ The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." ⁵ Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. ⁶ And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." ⁷ And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will

restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.”⁸ And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?”

⁹ Then the king called Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master’s grandson.”¹⁰ And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master’s grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master’s grandson shall always eat at my table.” Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, “According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table, like one of the king’s sons.¹² And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba’s house became Mephibosheth’s servants.¹³ So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king’s table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

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 Grandson”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

All to Jesus I Surrender

**All to Jesus, I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
May I ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.**

***I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.***

**All to Jesus I surrender,
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,
Take me, Jesus, take me now.**

***I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.***

**All to Jesus, I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me,
May I know Thy pow'r divine.**

***I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.***

Words by Judson W. VanDeVenter (1896)
Music by Winfield S. Weeden (1896)
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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

When I Survey the Wondrous 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.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**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?**

**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.**

*Words by Isaac Watts (1707, 1709).
Gregorian Chant; arranged by Lowell Mason (1824)
PUBLIC DOMAIN*

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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Scripture text from

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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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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.