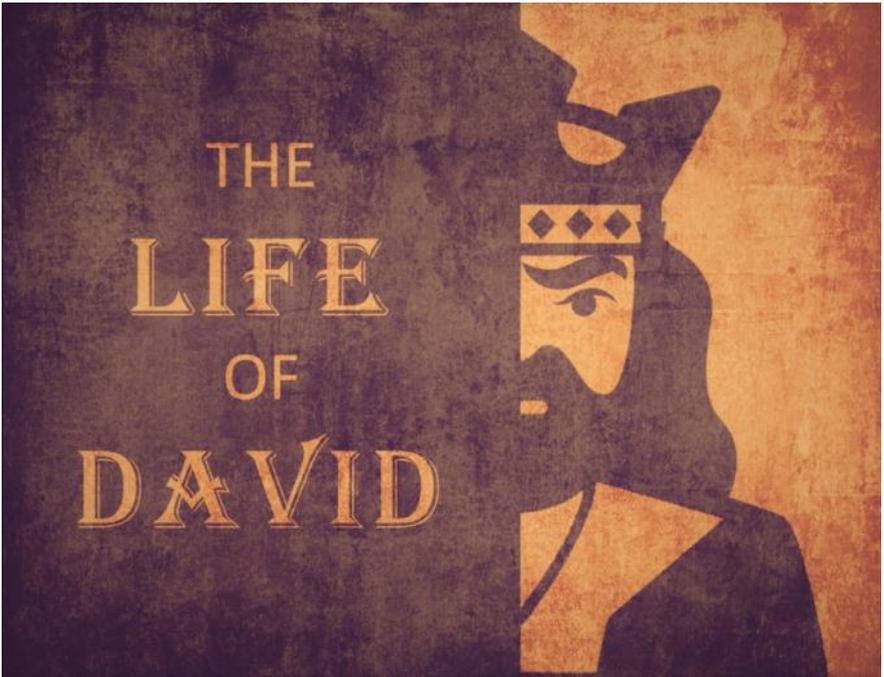




Ascension PCA

August 8, 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

In those tough moments when I'm facing
the unexpected, the unwanted, the hard,
the sad, the confusing, and the difficult,
it is easy for me to forget
that the hard hammer of trial in Your hands
is a tool of redeeming grace.
In those hard moments I am
not being beaten for my sin
but reshaped by Your grace.
You have already carried my punishment,
so all that You plan for me
is an expression of Your unrelenting,
undeserved, unfathomable, redeeming love.

~ Paul Tripp

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 Revelation 19:5–7

M: Praise our God, all you His servants,
you who fear Him, both small and great!

P: **Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!
Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Blessed Be Your Name

**Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow,
Blessed be Your name.**

**And blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place;
Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be Your name.**

*Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise,
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say:*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name!*

**Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's "all as it should be,"
Blessed be Your name.**

**And blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering;
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be Your name.**

***Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise,
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say:***

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name!***

**You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be Your name!**

**You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be Your name!**

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name!***

Words and music by Matt & Beth Redman
© 2002 Thankyou Music

Holy, Holy, Holy!

**Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
blessed Trinity!**

Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art,
and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see.
Only Thou art holy;
there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r,
in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
blessed Trinity!
God in three Persons,
blessed Trinity!

Words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826)
Music by John B. Dykes (1861)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 6:41-71

⁴¹ So the Jews grumbled about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, I have come down from heaven?" ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me — ⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he also will live because of Me.

⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as He taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of His disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where

He was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him.) ⁶⁵ And He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted him by the Father."

⁶⁶ After this many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God." ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Loving Heavenly Father,

**Yours is surpassing greatness,
unspeakable goodness,
and superabundant grace.**

**Your steadfast love greets us each morning,
and Your faithfulness is our constant
companion.**

**Your mercies are fresh each day,
flowing toward us in Your patient perseverance
and loving guidance.**

**We thank you for personal mercies;
for a measure of health,
the comforts of home,
food and clothing;**

**for those moments of domestic peace
and harmony;**

**for Your ongoing protection of ourselves
and those whom we love.**

**Yet we mourn our sin and ingratitude to You.
We have not put our hope in You,
and we have not waited patiently
for You to act on our behalf.
We have trusted and delighted in Your creation
rather than in You,
and we have looked to our idols to make us glad,
complaining bitterly when they have failed us.**

**Father, forgive our many sins.
Thank You that when we fly repenting
to Your outstretched arms,
You will not cast us off, for Jesus brings us near.
You will not condemn us, for He died in our place.
Thank You for Your wonderful Son.**

**Holy Spirit, help us to turn away from our sin
and cling to the cross.
May we hide in the wounds of Jesus
and find shelter in His side. 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

Isaiah 53:2-3,6

M: For He grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him
and no beauty that we should desire Him.
He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces.
He was despised and we esteemed Him not.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned — every one — to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

He Was Wounded

**He was wounded for our transgressions,
He bore our sins in His body on the tree;
For our guilt He gave us peace,
From our bondage gave release,
And with His stripes, and with His stripes,
And with His stripes our souls are healed.**

**He was numbered among transgressors,
We did esteem Him forsaken by His God;
As our sacrifice He died,
That the law be satisfied,
And all our sin, and all our sin,
And all our sin was laid on Him.**

**We had wandered, we all had wandered
Far from the fold of “the Shepherd of the sheep”;
But He sought us where we were,
On the mountains bleak and bare,
And brought us home, and brought us home,
And brought us safely home to God.**

**Who can number His generation?
Who shall declare all the triumphs of His cross?
Millions, dead, now live again,
Myriads follow in His train!
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,
Victorious Lord and coming King!**

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm (1920). Music by Joseph N. Partain (1977)
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music © 2015 Nathan Partain

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 15:1–16, 30

¹ After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. ² And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," ³ Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you." ⁴ Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." ⁵ And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. ⁶ Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷ And at the end of four years Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD, in Hebron." ⁸ For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the LORD will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the LORD.'" ⁹ The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron. ¹⁰ But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, 'Absalom is king at Hebron!'" ¹¹ With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing. ¹² And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

¹³ And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." ¹⁴ Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and

strike the city with the edge of the sword.”¹⁵ And the king’s servants said to the king, “Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides.”

¹⁶ So the king went out, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house.

³⁰ But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went.

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 Rejected”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES

SONG OF RESPONSE

Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
By His Son, God now has spoken:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

**Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress.**

**Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save.
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.**

**Ye who think of sin but lightly,
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.**

**Mark the Sacrifice appointed,
See Who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.**

**Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost.
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the Name of which we boast.**

**Lamb of God for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded,
Who on Him their hope have built.**

Words by Thomas Kelly (1804; alt. 1961)
Music from *Geistliche Volkslieder*, Paderborn (1850)
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

*based on Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28;
1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Revelation 22:13 & Romans 8*

**P: This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures,
that He was buried,
that He was raised on the third day,
and that He appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
He is our Lord and our God.**

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together
for good for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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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Scripture text from

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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.