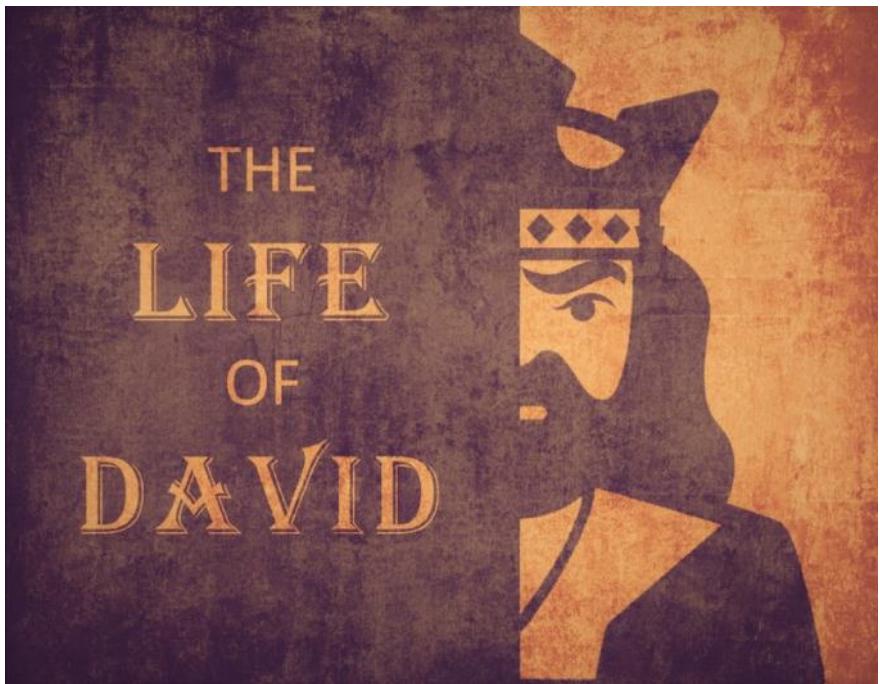




August 22, 2021



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 man who has God for his treasure  
has all things in One.

Many ordinary treasures may be denied him,  
or if he is allowed to have them,  
the enjoyment of them will be so tempered  
that they will never be necessary to his happiness.

Or if he must see them go, one after one,  
he will scarcely feel a sense of loss,  
for having the Source of all things,  
he has in One all satisfaction,  
all pleasure, all delight.

Whatever he may lose he has actually lost nothing,  
for he now has it all in One,  
and he has it purely, legitimately, forever.

~ A. W. Tozer

# 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

*Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26*

- M: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**
- M: Give thanks to the God of gods,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**
- M: Give thanks to the LORD of lords,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**
- M: to Him who alone does great wonders,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**
- M: to Him who by understanding made the heavens,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**
- M: to Him who spread out the earth above the waters,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**
- M: to Him who made the great lights,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**
- M: the sun to rule over the day,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**
- M: the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**
- M: It is He who remembered us in our low estate,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**
- M: and rescued us from our foes,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**
- M: He who gives food to all flesh,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**
- M: Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

# PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

### *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

**I sing the mighty power of God,  
that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at His command,  
and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
that filled the earth with food;  
He formed the creatures with His Word  
and then pronounced them good.**

**Lord, how Your wonders are displayed  
where'er I turn my eye:  
If I survey the ground I tread  
or gaze upon the sky!**

**There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes Your glories known,  
And clouds arise and tempests blow,  
by order from Your throne.**

**While all that borrows life from You  
is ever in Your care,  
And everywhere that man can be,  
You, God, are present there.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1714; Mod.).  
Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

### *The Lord is My Salvation*

**The grace of God has reached for me,  
And pulled me from the raging sea.  
And I am safe on this solid ground:  
The Lord is my salvation.**

I will not fear when darkness falls,  
His strength will help me scale these walls.  
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun:  
The Lord is my salvation.

*Who is like the Lord our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love.  
My debt is paid and the victory won:  
The Lord is my salvation.*

My hope is hidden in the Lord,  
He flow'r's each promise of His Word.  
When winter fades, I know spring will come:  
The Lord is my salvation.

In times of waiting, times of need,  
When I know loss, when I am weak,  
I know His grace will renew these days:  
The Lord is my salvation.

*Who is like the Lord our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love.  
My debt is paid and the victory won:  
The Lord is my salvation.*

Glory be to God, the Father.

Glory be to God, the Son.

Glory be to God, the Spirit.

The Lord is our salvation.

Glory be to God, the Father.

Glory be to God, the Son.

Glory be to God, the Spirit.

The Lord is our salvation.

And when I reach the final day,  
He will not leave me in the grave,  
But I will rise, He will call me home:  
The Lord is my salvation!

*Who is like the Lord our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love.  
My debt is paid and the victory won:  
The Lord is my salvation.*

# GOD CLEANSES 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 7:1-24*

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. <sup>2</sup> Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. <sup>3</sup> So His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works You are doing. <sup>4</sup> For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> For not even His brothers believed in Him. <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify about it that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."

<sup>9</sup> After saying this, He remained in Galilee.

<sup>10</sup> But after His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He also went up, not publicly but in private. <sup>11</sup> The Jews were looking for Him at the feast, and saying, "Where is He?" <sup>12</sup> And there was much muttering about Him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, He is leading the people astray." <sup>13</sup> Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of Him.

<sup>14</sup> About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. <sup>15</sup> The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when He has never studied?" <sup>16</sup> So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

<sup>17</sup> If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on My own authority. <sup>18</sup> The one who speaks on his own

authority seeks his own glory; but the One who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him is true, and in Him there is no falsehood. <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill Me?" <sup>20</sup> The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill You?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. <sup>22</sup> Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with Me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? <sup>24</sup> Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we are thankful that your mercy is  
higher than the heavens,  
wider than our wanderings,  
deeper than all our sin.**

**Forgive our careless attitudes  
toward your purposes,  
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,  
our envy of those who have more than we have,  
our obsession with creating a life  
of constant pleasure,  
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,  
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.**

**Help us to change our way of life  
so that we may desire what is good,  
love what You love,  
and do what You command,  
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

*Ephesians 1:7–8 & Isaiah 12:1–2*

M: In Christ we have redemption through His blood,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
in accordance with the riches of God's grace  
that He lavished on us with all wisdom  
and understanding.

**P: We will praise You, O LORD.**

**Although You were angry with us,  
Your anger has turned away  
and You have comforted us.  
Surely God is our salvation;  
we will trust and not be afraid.**

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Thy Mercy, My God*

**Thy mercy, my God,  
is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart  
and the boast of my tongue;**

**Thy free grace alone,  
from the first to the last,  
Has won my affection,  
and bound my soul fast.**

**Without Thy sweet mercy  
I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me  
to utter despair;  
But through Thy free goodness,  
my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me  
still keeps me alive.**

**Thy mercy is more  
than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel  
its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness,  
I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise  
of the mercy I've found.**

**Great Father of mercies,  
Thy goodness I own,  
And the covenant love  
of Thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit,  
Whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy, and pardon,  
and righteousness mine.**

Words by John Stocker. PUBLIC DOMAIN  
Music by Sandra McCracken  
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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.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## READING OF THE WORD

### *1 Kings 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup> When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, <sup>2</sup> "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, <sup>3</sup> and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in His ways and keeping His statutes, His commandments, His rules, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, <sup>4</sup> that the LORD may establish His word that He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention

to their way, to walk before Me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

<sup>5</sup> "Moreover, you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner the son of Ner, and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed, avenging in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet. <sup>6</sup> Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace. <sup>7</sup> But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother. <sup>8</sup> And there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' <sup>9</sup> Now therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man. You will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol."

<sup>10</sup> Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. <sup>11</sup> And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

<sup>12</sup> So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

## 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 King & The Kingdom”**

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

# SERMON NOTES

## 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.

## EUCARISTIC PRAYER

# CONFESSING OUR FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed & The Mystery of Faith*

**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.**

M: Great is the mystery of faith:

**P: Christ has died;  
    Christ is risen;  
    Christ will come again.**

M: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**P: Dying, You destroyed our death;  
    Rising, You restored our life.  
    Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

M: According to His commandment:

**P: We remember His death;  
    We proclaim His resurrection;  
    We await His coming in glory.**

# 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)**

**Meeting Address:**

8224 220<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

**APC Office:**

Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

(425) 286-8617

*office@ascension-pca.org*

## STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

**Rev. Nate Hitchcock**      *nate@ascension-pca.org*

ASSISTANT PASTOR:

**Rev. Edward Volz**      *volz.edw@gmail.com*

PASTORAL INTERN:

**Austin Clement**      *clement.austin@gmail.com*

OFFICE MANAGER:

**Rina Kroes**      *office@ascension-pca.org*

ELDERS:

**Brett Chase**      *brett@ascension-pca.org*  
**Bob Miller**      *bob@ascension-pca.org*  
**Bo Stocklin**      *bostocklin@ascension-pca.org*  
**Chris Sledge**      *chris@ascension-pca.org*  
**Theo Vander Wel**      *theo@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

**Peter Contreras**      *peter@ascension-pca.org*  
**Fred Wilson**      *fred@ascension-pca.org*  
**Kyle Bartlett**      *kyle@ascension-pca.org*

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

**Leandra Howell**      *leandra.m.howell@gmail.com*

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

**Monica Sledge**      *cmkesledge@gmail.com*

MEAL COORDINATOR:

**Sheila Bloedow**      *s.bloedow@comcast.net*

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

**Rebecca Wheeler**      *dieseltheboxer@hotmail.com*

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