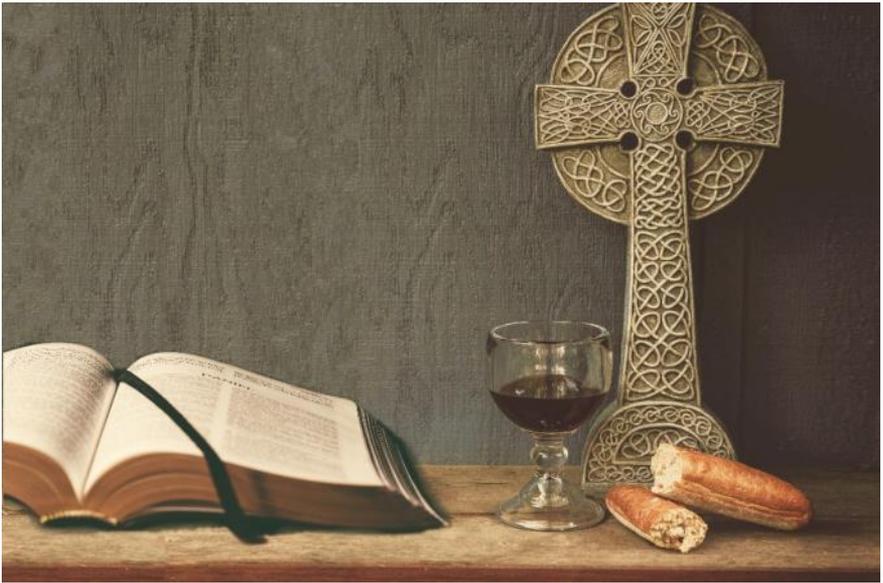




Ascension PCA

August 29, 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

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. I believe that I am not my own,
but belong —
body and soul,
in life and in death —
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for my sins
with His precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together
for my salvation.
Because I belong to Him,
Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for Him.

~ *Heidelberg Catechism*

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 147

M: Praise the LORD!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

**P: The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
He gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

M: He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

**P: He determines the number of the stars;
He gives to all of them their names.**

M: Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;
His understanding is beyond measure.

**P: The LORD lifts up the humble;
He casts the wicked to the ground.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

This Is Our God

**God our Father, full of power,
Maker of the heavens,
Maker of the world.
Forming all things, seen and unseen,
Truly the Almighty
Beyond all measure worth;
Holy is His Name!**

...

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son;
This is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim:
This is our God!***

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,
Born unto a virgin,
Lived a perfect life.
Greatly suffered, dying for us.
From the grave He's risen,
Seated now on high;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son;
This is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim:
This is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,
Speaking through the prophets,
Empowering the Church.
Life is given by and through Him,
With the Son and Father,
Worshipped and adored;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son;
This is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim:
This is our God!***

Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)
Words & music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce, Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones
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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'rs 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.***

**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.***

**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.**

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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Heavenly Father, Fountain of all good,
You are a God merciful and gracious;
all Your ways are just and true.
Forgive us for the times we have counted You
cold and harsh,
and so have turned from You in self-reliance
and callous independence.**

**Lord Jesus, Savior and Friend,
You are the Good Shepherd
Who has laid down Your life for us, Your sheep.
Forgive us for the times we have not trusted
Your voice,
and so have wandered into parched pastures
and wastelands of our own choosing.**

**Holy Spirit, Giver of Life,
You are our Counselor and Helper,
by whom we walk in the way everlasting.
Forgive us for the times we have ignored
Your leading,
and so have chosen sin, sorrow, and pain.**

**Father, Son, and Spirit,
Forgive us, we pray,
and restore to us the joy of Your salvation
once more. 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

1 Peter 2:24–25

**P: He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,
that we might die to sin
and live to righteousness.**

**M: By His wounds you have been healed.
For you were straying like sheep,
but have now returned to the Shepherd
and Overseer of your souls.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

The King of Love

**The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With You, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.**

**And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever.**

Words by Henry W. Baker (1868). Old Irish Hymn Melody
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

Romans 8:26–30

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.

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

“All Things for Good”

Mr. Austin Clement

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

**God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.**

**Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.**

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.**

**Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.**

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

**Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.**

**His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.**

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

***Holy, Holy,
Oh mysteries beyond,
Glory, Glory
Be to our Sovereign God.***

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

Romans 8:31-39

- 31 **What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?**
- 32 **He who did not spare His own Son
but gave Him up for us all,
how will He not also with him
graciously give us all things?**
- 33 **Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.**
- 34 **Who is to condemn?
Christ Jesus is the one who died —
more than that, who was raised —
who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed is interceding for us.**
- 35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**
- 36 **As it is written,
"For Your sake we are being killed
all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through Him who loved us.**
- 38 **For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers,**
- 39 **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.

SONG OF MEDITATION

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.**

**Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To Thy glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.**

**How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.**

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).

Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)

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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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:30AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

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