



# Ascension PCA

September 5, 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

There is nothing more equal and just than to worship and serve Him whose we are; to love and to live to Him from whom we have our life and breath, especially considering that "His commandments are our life." (Deut. 26:16-20; 32:47)

~ *Elisha Coles*

# 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 97*

M: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!  
Clouds and thick darkness are all around Him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation  
of His throne.  
Fire goes before Him  
and burns up His adversaries all around.  
His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.  
The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the LORD of all the earth.  
The heavens proclaim His righteousness,  
and all the peoples see His glory.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise,  
In light inaccessible  
Hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious,  
The Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.**

...

**Unresting, unhasting,  
And silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting,  
Thou rulest in might.  
Thy justice, like mountains  
High soaring above;  
Thy clouds which are fountains  
Of goodness and love.**

**Great Father of glory,  
Pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee,  
All veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render,  
O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor  
Of light hideth Thee!**

Traditional Welsh hymn  
Words by Walter Chalmers Smith (1867)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

### *Only a Holy God*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God,  
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.  
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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.

# OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

## *Malachi 4:1-6*

- <sup>1</sup> “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup> But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup> And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.
- <sup>4</sup> “Remember the law of My servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.
- <sup>5</sup> “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*from Titus 3:3*

**P: Our God and Father,  
we confess that we have been foolish  
and disobedient,  
and have been led stray,  
slaves to various passions and pleasures.  
We have passed our days in malice and envy,  
being hated by others and hating one another.  
For all this and much more,  
forgive us, we pray, for Jesus’s sake.  
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

*Titus 3:4–7*

M: But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure;  
Save from wrath and make me pure.**

**Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eyes shall close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776); altered by Thomas Cotterill (1815)  
Music by Thomas Hastings (1830)  
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

*Mark 1:1–8*

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send My messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make His paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, “After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

## 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.**



# SONG OF RESPONSE

## *O Great God*

**O great God of highest heav'n,  
Occupy my lowly heart.  
Own it all and reign supreme,  
Conquer every rebel pow'r.  
Let no vice or sin remain  
That resists Your holy war.  
You have loved and purchased me,  
Make me Yours forevermore.**

**I was blinded by my sin,  
Had no ears to hear Your voice,  
Did not know Your love within,  
Had no taste for heaven's joys.  
Then your Spirit gave me life,  
Opened up Your Word to me  
Through the gospel of Your Son,  
Gave me endless hope and peace.**

**Help me now to live a life  
That's dependent on Your grace.  
Keep my heart and guard my soul  
From the evils that I face.  
You are worthy to be praised  
With my every thought and deed.  
O great God of highest heav'n,  
Glorify Your name through me.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin.

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration".

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# 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

*The Apostles' Creed*

M: Saints, what do you believe?

**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.*

## 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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and that any automatic payments are being sent  
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