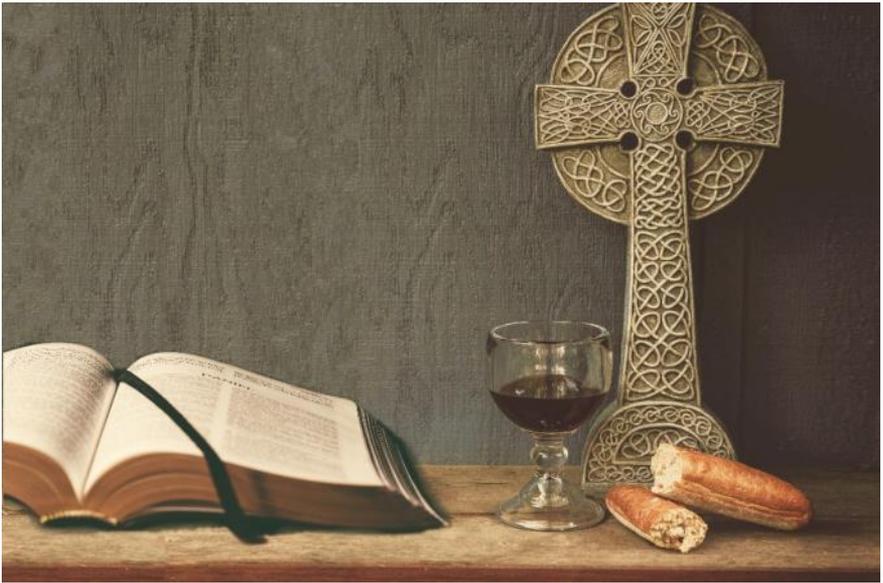




# Ascension PCA

September 12, 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

*Give me one pure and holy passion.*

*Give me one magnificent obsession.*

*Jesus, give me one glorious ambition for my life,  
to know and follow hard after You.*

*To know and follow hard after You,  
to grow as Your disciple in the truth.*

*This world is empty, pale, and poor  
compared to knowing You, my Lord.*

*Lead me on and I will run after You.*

*~ Mark Altrogge*

# 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

*1 Peter 1:3–4*

M: Praise be to the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In His great mercy He has given us  
new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
from the dead,  
and into an inheritance that can  
never perish, spoil or fade —  
kept in heaven for you.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Come, Holy One*

**Hasten now,  
O loving Lord to us,  
We're thirsty.  
Fill these souls,  
Spirit, every hour,  
We need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One,  
Come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory,  
Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on,  
The perfect path O Lord,  
And may we  
Sin no more,  
This spotless bride, the Church,  
Is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One,  
Come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory,  
Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One,  
Come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory,  
Lord Jesus.***

Words & music by Eric J. Marshall  
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## *Praise the Lord Ye Heavens*

**Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore Him;  
Praise Him angels, in the height;  
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;  
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.**

**Praise the Lord for He hath spoken;  
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed;  
Laws which never shall be broken  
For their guidance He hath made.**

***All creation join the song of praise.  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
All of our days!***

**Praise the Lord! for He is glorious;  
Never shall His promise fail;  
God hath made His saints victorious;  
Sin and death shall not prevail.**

***All creation join the song of praise.  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
All of our days!***

***Glory, glory,  
All glory to You, Lord!***

***Glory, glory,  
All glory to You, Lord!***

***Glory, glory,  
All glory to You, Lord!***

**Praise the God of our salvation!  
Hosts on high, His power proclaim;  
Heaven and earth, and all creation  
Laud and magnify His Name.**

***All creation join the song of praise,  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
All of our days!***

***And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
All of our days!***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall

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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.

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*John 7:25–52*

<sup>25</sup> Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? <sup>26</sup> And here He is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to Him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?

<sup>27</sup> But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where He comes from."

<sup>28</sup> So Jesus proclaimed, as He taught in the temple, "You know Me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of My own accord. He who sent Me is true, and Him you do not know. <sup>29</sup> I know Him, for I come from Him, and He sent Me."

<sup>30</sup> So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

<sup>31</sup> Yet many of the people believed in Him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will He do more signs than this man has done?"

<sup>32</sup> The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Him.

<sup>33</sup> Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to Him who sent Me. <sup>34</sup> You will seek Me and you will not find Me. Where I am you cannot come."

<sup>35</sup> The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? <sup>36</sup> What does He mean by saying, 'You will seek Me and you will not find Me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?"

<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

<sup>39</sup> Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

<sup>40</sup> When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." <sup>41</sup> Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? <sup>42</sup> Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" <sup>43</sup> So there was a division among the people over Him. <sup>44</sup> Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

<sup>45</sup> The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" <sup>46</sup> The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" <sup>47</sup> The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? <sup>48</sup> Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in Him? <sup>49</sup> But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

<sup>50</sup> Nicodemus, who had gone to Him before, and who was one of them, said to them, <sup>51</sup> "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" <sup>52</sup> They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

# CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*modified from the Valley of Vision*

**P: O Lord, we hang on You;  
we see, believe, live,  
when Your will, not ours, is done;  
We can plead nothing in ourselves  
in regard to any worthiness and grace...**

**Show us what sins hide You from us,  
and eclipse Your love;  
Help us to humble ourselves for past evils,  
to be resolved to walk with more care.**

**O God, we bid farewell to our sin  
by clinging to the cross of Christ,  
hiding in His wounds,  
and sheltering in His side.**

# 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

*Psalm 130:3–4,7*

**M: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O LORD, who could stand?  
But with You there is forgiveness,  
that You may be feared...  
O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

## *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.**

Words and music by Jonas Myrin | Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Nathan Nockels  
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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.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### READING OF THE WORD

*Exodus 34:1–9*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. <sup>2</sup> Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to Me on the top of the mountain. <sup>3</sup> No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain."

<sup>4</sup> So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. <sup>5</sup> The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who

will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

<sup>8</sup> And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. <sup>9</sup> And he said, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, O LORD, please let the LORD go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for Your inheritance."

## 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 Promise-Keeping God"*  
*Mr. Philip Suh*

## PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# SONG OF RESPONSE

## *How Firm a Foundation*

**How firm a foundation,  
You saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith  
In His excellent Word!**

**What more can He say  
Than to you He has said,  
To you who for refuge  
To Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you;  
O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God,  
And will still give you aid.**

**I’ll strengthen you, help you,  
And cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous,  
Omnipotent hand.”**

**“When through the deep waters,  
I call you to go;  
The rivers of sorrow  
Shall not overflow.**

**For I will be with you,  
Your troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to you  
Your deepest distress.”**

**“The soul that on Jesus  
Has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not  
Desert to his foes.**

**That soul, though all hell  
Should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never,  
No never forsake.”**

Words from *Rippon's Selection of Hymns* (1787; alt.; mod.)  
Traditional American melody; J. Funk's *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music* (1832)  
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

**P: Heavenly Father,  
we give You everlasting praise and thanks  
that You have given us, poor sinners,  
so great a benefit —  
that You have drawn us into the communion  
of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
whom You surrendered to death for us  
and whom You give to us as food  
and nourishment for eternal life.**

**Grant us now this benefit, also:  
that You will never allow us to forget these truths,  
but rather, having them imprinted on our hearts,  
we may grow and thrive vigorously in faith,  
a faith committed to all good works,  
and that in so doing we may order and direct  
our whole human life  
to the exaltation of Your glory  
and for the good of our neighbor,  
through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
who in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
lives and reigns with You eternally. 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

*As A Beggar I Come To Thee*

**As a beggar, I come to Thee,  
As a beggar, I come to Thee,  
With empty hands, without one plea,  
As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**At Thy table I find a feast,  
At Thy table I find a feast,  
Here come the poor, the lame, the least,  
At Thy table, I find a feast.**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?  
Precious Savior, how can it be?  
Thine own dear blood was shed for me!  
Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done,  
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done,  
Long I to see Thy kingdom come,  
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!  
With lifted hearts, our prayer is sung:  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

**With lifted hearts, our prayer is sung:  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

Music and words by Luke Morton  
© 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

# 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*

### **A NOTE ABOUT GIVING**

Please make sure that checks are made out to  
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and that any automatic payments are being sent  
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