



Ascension PCA

September 26, 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

*I keep trying to find a life,
on my own apart from You.
I am the king of excuses,
I've got one for every selfish thing I do.
What's going on inside of me?
I despise my own behavior.
This only serves to confirm my suspicions
that I'm still a man in need of a Savior.*

***I wanna be in the light as You are in the light.
I wanna shine like the stars in the heavens.
Oh, Lord be my light and be my salvation!
All I want is to be in the light.***

~ Charlie Peacock (from the song *In the Light*)

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 27:1,7–8, 14

**P: The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
You have said, "Seek My face."
My heart says to You,
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."**

**M: Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice!**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

...

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered,
That the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

**With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting vict'ry from the grave
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee

**Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise You
For the bliss Your love bestows;
For the pard'ning grace that saves me,
And the peace that from it flows.**

**Help, O God, my weak endeavor;
This dull soul to rapture raise:
You must light the flame, or never
Can my love be warmed to praise.**

**Praise, my soul, the God that sought me,
Wretched wand'rer far astray;
Found me lost, and kindly brought me
From the paths of death away.**

**Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,
Him who saw my guilt-born fear;
And, the light of hope revealing,
Bade the blood-stained cross appear.**

**Praise my Savior God that drew me
To that cross, new life to give;
Held a blood-sealed pardon to me,
Bade me look to Him and live.**

**Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,
Roused me from my fatal ease;
Praise the grace whose promise warmed me,
Praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817)
Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839)
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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 13:1-14

¹ Thus says the LORD to me, "Go and buy a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, and do not dip it in water."

² So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the LORD, and put it around my waist. ³ And the word of the LORD came to me a second time, ⁴ "Take the loincloth that you have bought, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates and hide it there in a cleft of the rock." ⁵ So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.

⁶ And after many days the LORD said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there." ⁷ Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. And behold, the loincloth was spoiled; it was good for nothing.

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁹ "Thus says the LORD: Even so will I spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who stubbornly follow their own heart and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. ¹¹ For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to Me, declares the LORD, that they might be for Me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.

¹² "You shall speak to them this word: 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "Every jar shall be filled with wine.'" And they will say to you, 'Do we not indeed know that every jar will be filled with wine?' ¹³ Then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will fill with drunkenness all the inhabitants of this land: the kings who sit on David's throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁴ And I will dash them one against another, fathers and sons together, declares the LORD. I will not pity or spare or have compassion, that I should not destroy them.'"

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God,
in You we live and move and have our being;
where could we go from Your presence?**

**And yet we have not walked in Your light,
but have loved our self-made darkness,
thinking it covers our evil deeds.**

**From the shadows of our sinfulness
we look up to You this morning.**

**We praise You for the light of the gospel
by which...**

**You have penetrated our dark world,
paid our awful debt of sin,
and brought us to Yourself.**

**O Lord, forgive our sins,
renew us in our relationship to You,
and cause us to walk in the light
as You are in the light,
that we might once again enjoy true fellowship
with You, our God,
and with one another.**

In Jesus' name we pray. 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.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 9:2,6

M: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
this is God's Word of grace:
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

*Look to the Light, look to the Son, look to Jesus
...and be forgiven.*

SONG OF ASSURANCE

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

**And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?**

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace.
Humbled Himself, so great His love,
And bled for all His chosen race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

...

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738); Music by Thomas Campbell (1825)
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

1 John 1:5–10

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

...

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
For by my side the Saviour He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need His power is displayed.**

*To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me;
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won,
And I shall overcome.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

*To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
Until I stand with joy before the throne.**

...

***To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete,
Still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
When the race is complete,
Still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson
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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

**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.

SONG OF MEDITATION

I Delight

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**As a bridegroom adorns
his head like a priest,
As a bride adorns her head with jewels...**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

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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Please make sure that checks are made out to
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.