



Ascension PCA

October 3, 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

Thou Great I AM,

*Fill my mind with elevation and grandeur
at the thought of a Being with whom one day
is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

*A mighty God, who amidst the lapse of worlds,
and the revolutions of empires,*

*feels no variableness,
but is glorious in immortality.*

*May I rejoice that, while men die, the Lord lives;
that, while all creatures are broken reeds,
empty cisterns, fading flowers, withering grass,
He is the Rock of Ages, the Fountain of living waters.*

*Turn my heart from vanity, from dissatisfactions,
from uncertainties of the present state,
to an eternal interest in Christ .*

~ from the Valley of Vision

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 47:1–2, 5–7

- M:** Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.
- P:** **God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

- P:** **O Gracious and Holy God,
Creator of all things and our Redeemer,
worthy are You to receive honor,
glory and praise!**

**As we gather in Your name this day,
draw near to us as we desire to draw near to You.**

**Grant us the grace to diligently seek You;
hearts to love You,
eyes to behold You,
wisdom to discern Your presence,
ears to listen to Your Word,
minds to meditate on who You are,
lips to proclaim Your praise,
and wills to obey Your call.**

**For the glory of Your name and in Jesus' Name,
Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Glorious and Mighty

**Majesty, Your glory is shining
Brighter than the moon and the stars.
Marveling, we honor and fear You
above all gods.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens;
Your decrees can never be changed.
Over all the plans of the nations,
Your judgments reign.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation;
When You come again in the clouds.
Every knee will bow down and worship
the one true God.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Greatly to be praised!***

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining
Music by Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining
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Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

**Let us love and sing and wonder,
Let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God.**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us,
Pitied us when enemies,
Called us by His grace and taught us,
Gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood,
He presents our souls to God.**

**Let us wonder; grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store;
When thro' grace in Christ our trust is,
Justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with His blood
Has secured our way to God.**

**Let us praise, and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted Him before us,
Now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with Your blood;
you are worthy, Lamb of God!"**

Words by John Newton (1774, mod.).
Music from *Darmstadt Gesangbuch* (1698)
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 13:15-27

- 15 Hear and give ear; be not proud,
for the LORD has spoken.
- 16 Give glory to the LORD your God
before He brings darkness,
before your feet stumble
on the twilight mountains,
and while you look for light
He turns it into gloom
and makes it deep darkness.
- 17 But if you will not listen,
my soul will weep in secret for your pride;
my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears,
because the LORD's flock has been taken captive.
- 18 Say to the king and the queen mother:
"Take a lowly seat,
for your beautiful crown
has come down from your head."
- 19 The cities of the Negeb are shut up,
with none to open them;
all Judah is taken into exile,
wholly taken into exile.
- 20 "Lift up your eyes and see
those who come from the north.
Where is the flock that was given you,
your beautiful flock?
- 21 What will you say when they set as head over you
those whom you yourself have taught
to be friends to you?
Will not pangs take hold of you
like those of a woman in labor?
- 22 And if you say in your heart,
'Why have these things come upon me?'
it is for the greatness of your iniquity
that your skirts are lifted up
and you suffer violence.
- 23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin
or the leopard his spots?
Then also you can do good
who are accustomed to do evil.

- 24 I will scatter you like chaff
driven by the wind from the desert.
- 25 This is your lot,
the portion I have measured out to you,
declares the LORD,
because you have forgotten Me
and trusted in lies.
- 26 I Myself will lift up your skirts over your face,
and your shame will be seen.
- 27 I have seen your abominations,
your adulteries and neighings,
your lewd whorings,
on the hills in the field.
Woe to you, O Jerusalem!
How long will it be before you are made clean?"

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Our Father, forgive us for thinking
small thoughts of You
and for ignoring Your holiness and greatness.**

**Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget
that You rule the nations
and each detail of our lives.**

**Holy Spirit, we offend You
when we minimize Your power
and squander Your gifts.**

**We confess that our blindness to Your glory,
O triune God,
has resulted in shallow confession,
lukewarm conviction,
and only mild repentance.**

Have mercy upon us. In Jesus' name. 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

from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 59 & 60

**P: By true faith in Jesus Christ,
I am right with God and heir to life everlasting.
Even though my conscience accuses me
of having grievously sinned against
all of God's commandments
and of never having kept any of them,
and even though I am still inclined
toward all evil,
nevertheless,
without my deserving it at all,
out of sheer grace,
God grants and credits to me
the perfect satisfaction, righteousness,
and holiness of Christ,
as if I have never sinned nor been a sinner,
as if I had been as perfectly obedient
as Christ was obedient for me.
All I need to do
is accept this gift of God with a believing heart.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

**What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

**This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness,
*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

***Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

**For my cleansing this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**For my pardon this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

Words and music by Robert Lowry (1876)
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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

1 John 2:1–6

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ Whoever says "I know Him" but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Before the Throne of God Above

**Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea:
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
Who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless Righteousness.
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of Glory and of Grace.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God;
With Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997)
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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

based on the Belgic Confession, Art. 20 & 21

M: What do you believe about the work of God?

**P: We believe that God—
who is perfectly merciful and also very just—
sent His Son to assume the nature
in which the disobedience had been committed,
in order to bear in it the punishment of sin
by His most bitter passion and death.**

M: And what do you believe about the work of Jesus Christ?

**P: We believe that Jesus Christ presented Himself
in our name before His Father,
to appease His wrath with full satisfaction
by offering Himself on the tree of the cross
and pouring out His precious blood
for the cleansing of our sins,
as the prophets had predicted.**

M: Why did He endure all this?

**P: He endured all this for the forgiveness
of our sins.**

M: What comfort does this give you?

**P: We find all comforts in His wounds
and have no need to seek
or invent any other means
to reconcile ourselves with God
than this one and only sacrifice,
once made,
which renders believers perfect forever.**

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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Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version.**

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

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