



Ascension PCA

October 10, 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

*"Our fair morning is at hand,
the Daystar is near the rising,
and we are not many miles from home;
what matters the ill entertainment
in the smoky inns of this miserable life?
We are not to stay here,
and we will be dearly welcome
to Him whom we go to."*

~ Samuel Rutherford

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

Isaiah 12:4–5

M: Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;
make known among the nations what He has done.

P: **Sing to the LORD, for He has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come, People of the Risen King

**Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.**

***Rejoice, Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.**

***Rejoice, Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.**

**Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age:
Our God is all in all!**

***Rejoice, Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

***Rejoice, Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend
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All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all;
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!**

Verses 1-2 by Edward Perronet (1779); verse 3 by John Rippon (1787).
Music by Oliver Holden (1793)
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 14:1-12

¹ The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought:

² “Judah mourns,
and her gates languish;
her people lament on the ground,
and the cry of Jerusalem goes up.
³ Her nobles send their servants for water;
they come to the cisterns;
they find no water;
they return with their vessels empty;
they are ashamed and confounded
and cover their heads.

⁴ Because of the ground that is dismayed,
since there is no rain on the land,
the farmers are ashamed;
they cover their heads.

⁵ Even the doe in the field forsakes her newborn fawn
because there is no grass.

...

- 6 The wild donkeys stand on the bare heights;
they pant for air like jackals;
their eyes fail
because there is no vegetation.
- 7 “Though our iniquities testify against us,
act, O LORD, for Your name’s sake;
for our backslidings are many;
we have sinned against You.
- 8 O You hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,
why should You be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?
- 9 Why should You be like a man confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot save?
Yet You, O LORD, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by Your name;
do not leave us.”
- 10 Thus says the LORD concerning this people:
“They have loved to wander thus;
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the LORD does not accept them;
now He will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.”
- 11 The LORD said to me: “Do not pray for the welfare of
this people. ¹² Though they fast, I will not hear their cry,
and though they offer burnt offering and grain offering,
I will not accept them. But I will consume them by
the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Loving heavenly Father,
Have mercy on us.**

**Although we have received Your lavish love
and unfailing forgiveness,
we find it hard to love each other well.
Our fallen nature draws us to an endless
fascination with ourselves
and to despise people who are different from us
or don't agree with us.**

**Instead of cultivating a love that covers sin,
we rehearse the sins of those whom we dislike
in an effort to justify ourselves
and feel superior.**

**Lord, forgive us, for we are broken and twisted
lovers of ourselves.**

**May Your deep love Father,
and the sacrificial love of our Savior,
transform us from the inside out into people
who respect, cherish, and readily forgive
the most difficult people in our lives.**

**We ask this in the name of Christ alone,
and for the sake of His glory. 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

1 John 4:10

M: In this is love, not that we loved God,
but that He loved us,
and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
And hung Him on that judgment tree.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the Holy Judge:
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer.
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness, my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook
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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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

1 John 2:7-14

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹² I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven
for His name's sake.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know Him who is
from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers,
because you know Him who is
from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

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

“Supernatural Love”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Oh How Good It Is

**Oh how good it is
When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit,
In faith and unity.**

**Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence
Here among us.**

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.***

***Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh how good it is
On this journey we share,
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn.**

**For the weak find strength,
The afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging.**

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.***

***Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another,
Forgive as He forgives.**

...

**When we live as one,
We all share in the love
Of the Son, with the Father,
And the Spirit.**

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.***

***Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words & music by Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Ross Holmes | Stuart Townend
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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

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A #1

M: What is your only comfort in life and death?

P: **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.**

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

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

**Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.**

**Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last!**

**Other refuge have I none;
I helpless hang on Thee;
Leave, oh, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.**

**All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, are all I want;
Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.**

**Just and holy is Thy name,
I'm all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
For all eternity.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). PUBLIC DOMAIN.
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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

1 Thessalonians 3:11–13

M: Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus ... make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all ... so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

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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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.