



Ascension PCA

October 31, 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

Almighty God, who through the preaching Thy servants, the blessed reformers, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine forth: Grant, we beseech Thee, that knowing its saving power, we may faithfully guard and defend it against all enemies, and joyfully proclaim it, to the salvation of souls and the glory of Thy Holy Name; through The Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reignite with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Prayer for Reformation Day,
Lutheran Service Book & Hymnal

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 99:1–3; 1 Timothy 1:17

M: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth quake!
The LORD is great in Zion;
He is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise Your great and awesome name!
Holy is He!

**P: To the King of ages, immortal, invisible,
the only God, be honor and glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

**A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.**

**For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great;
and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.**

**If we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.**

...

**You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth, His name,
from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.**

**The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.**

**That Word above all earthly pow'rs,
no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Him who with us sideth.**

**Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.**

Words and music by Martin Luther (1529); translated by Frederick H. Hedge (1853)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Our Great God

**Eternal God, unchanging,
mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight
around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
in praise to You alone.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Lord, we are weak and frail,
helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
before our Sovereign God.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Let every creature in the sea
and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field
and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
who rules them by His Word.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

Words & music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell
© 2002 New Spring, DeJamesolo Music, Curb Word Music

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 15:1-9

¹ Then the LORD said to me, "Though Moses and Samuel stood before Me, yet My heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of My sight, and let them go!

² And when they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD:

"Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence,
and those who are for the sword, to the sword;
those who are for famine, to famine,
and those who are for captivity, to captivity.'

³ I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, declares the LORD: the sword to kill, the dogs to tear, and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy. ⁴ And I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem.

⁵ "Who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem,
or who will grieve for you?
Who will turn aside
to ask about your welfare?

⁶ You have rejected Me, declares the LORD;
you keep going backward,
so I have stretched out My hand against you and
destroyed you —

I am weary of relenting.
⁷ I have winnowed them with a winnowing fork
in the gates of the land;
I have bereaved them; I have destroyed My people;
they did not turn from their ways.

⁸ I have made their widows more in number
than the sand of the seas;
I have brought against the mothers of young men
a destroyer at noonday;
I have made anguish and terror
fall upon them suddenly.

9 She who bore seven has grown feeble;
she has fainted away;
her sun went down while it was yet day;
she has been shamed and disgraced.
And the rest of them I will give to the sword
before their enemies,
declares the LORD.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

from Psalm 79:8–9

**P: O LORD, do not remember against us
our former iniquities;
let Your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low.
Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of Your name;
deliver us, and atone for our sins,
for Your name’s sake!**

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 55:6–7

**M: Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call upon Him while He is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD,
that He may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Spirit of God

**The blessing of the Father,
Gift of grace and love,
The promise of the Savior,
For power from above.**

**Oh, wondrous gift that's given,
For confidence and mission;
Holy Spirit, You make all things new.**

*Spirit of God, breathe on me now;
Source of life, come, revive my weary heart.*

*Spirit of God, shine on me now.
Light of life, come, ignite my longing heart.*

**Come and lift the dark clouds,
Of doubt and unbelief;
Shine upon my soul now,
For by Your rays I see.
Clearer, closer, deeper
The love of my Redeemer;
Holy Spirit, You make all things new.**

*Spirit of God, breathe on me now;
Source of life, come, revive my weary heart.*

*Spirit of God, shine on me now.
Light of life, come, ignite my longing heart.*

**Where You breathe — hope thrives,
The dead return to life,
And the dark must flee the breaking day.
By Your light — I see
The glories of my King;
And beholding Him I will be changed.**

*Spirit of God, breathe on me now;
Source of life, come, revive my weary heart.*

*Spirit of God, shine on me now.
Light of life, come, ignite my longing heart.*

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 2:18–27

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that He made to us — eternal life.

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie — just as it has taught you, abide in Him.

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

from 2 Timothy 1:9-10 & the Belgic Confession, Art. 35

**P: (He) saved us and called us to a holy calling,
not because of our works
but because of His own purpose and grace,
which He gave us in Christ Jesus
before the ages began,
and which now has been manifested through
the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,
who abolished death and brought life
and immortality to light through the gospel.**

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper to nourish and sustain those who are born again and grafted into His family: His church. Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread as the sacrament of his body and wine as the sacrament of His blood.

**P: Just as truly as we take and hold
the sacraments in our hands
and eat and drink them in our mouths,
by which our life is then sustained,
so truly we receive into our souls,
for our spiritual life,
the true body and true blood of Christ,
our only Savior.
We receive these by faith,
which is the hand and mouth of our souls.**

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

O My Soul, Arise

**Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice
on my behalf appears.
Before the throne my surety stands,
Before the throne my surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.**

**He ever lives above
for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love,
His precious blood to plead.
His blood atoned for every race,
His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.**

***O my soul, arise,
Behold the risen Christ,
Your Great High Priest, your spotless sacrifice.***

***O my soul, arise,
God owns you as His child;
Shake off your guilty fears, my soul, arise.***

**Five bleeding wounds He bears,
received on Calvary.
They pour effectual prayers
they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Don’t let that ransomed sinner die!”**

***O my soul, arise,
Behold the risen Christ,
Your Great High Priest, your spotless sacrifice.***

***O my soul, arise,
God owns you as His child;
Shake off your guilty fears, my soul, arise.***

**My God is reconciled,
His pard'ning voice I hear.
He owns me as His child,
I can no longer fear.
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.**

***O my soul, arise,
Behold the risen Christ,
Your Great High Priest, your spotless sacrifice.***

***O my soul, arise,
God owns you as His child;
Shake off your guilty fears, my soul, arise.***

Words & music by Charles Wesley & Eric McAllister
© 2012 Sovereign Grace Worship
Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music [DC Cook])

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.**

Song lyrics reproduced by permission: CCL#11181050

Scripture text from

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

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

Meeting Address:

8224 220th 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 INTERNS:

Austin Clement *clement.austin@gmail.com*

Philip Suh *philipsuh@outlook.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
Ascension Presbyterian Church
and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.