



# Ascension PCA

November 14, 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

*"Cease to regard the Gospel as a mere collection of dry doctrines.*

*Look at it rather as the revelation of a mighty living Being in whose sight you are daily to live.*

*Cease to regard it as a mere set of abstract propositions and abstruse principles and rules.*

*Look at it as the introduction to a glorious personal Friend.*

*This is the kind of Gospel that the apostles preached.*

*They did not go about the world telling men of love and mercy and pardon in the abstract.*

*The leading subject of all their sermons was the loving heart of an actual living Christ...*

*Nothing, surely, is so likely to prepare us for that heaven where Christ's personal presence will be all,*

*and that glory where we shall meet Christ face to face, as to realize communion with Christ,*

*as an actual living Person here on earth.*

*There is all the difference in the world between an idea and a person."*

~ J.C. Ryle

# 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 40:25–31*

- M: To whom then will you compare Me,  
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
who created these?  
He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name;  
by the greatness of His might  
and because He is strong in power,  
not one is missing.  
Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- P: Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
His understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might  
He increases strength.  
Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;  
But they who wait for the LORD  
shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

# SONGS OF PRAISE

## *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

**God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
and rides upon the storm.  
Deep in unfathomable mines  
of never-failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
and works His sovereign will.**

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
but trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.  
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
the clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
in blessings on your head.**

***Holy, Holy,  
Oh mysteries beyond,  
Glory, Glory  
Be to our Sovereign God.***

**Blind unbelief is sure to err  
and scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
and He will make it plain.  
His purposes will ripen fast,  
unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
but sweet will be the flower.**

***Holy, Holy,  
Oh mysteries beyond,  
Glory, Glory  
Be to our Sovereign God.***

***Holy, Holy,  
Oh mysteries beyond,  
Glory, Glory  
Be to our Sovereign God.***

## *Great Is Our God*

**Come let us praise Him,  
Let us kneel at the throne of our God.  
Through His Son our salvation was bought  
With mercy and grace.**

**Come let us bow down,  
In His hands are the depths of the earth.  
With one voice we proclaim His great worth,  
Lord our God!**

***And we will seek Him,  
our Rock of Salvation.  
Morning by morning  
with thanksgiving we come.  
And we will bow down,  
with creation we cry out.  
In daylight and darkness  
we sing to the Lord.***

***Great is our God,  
Great is our God,  
Great is our God.***

**Lord of all nations,  
We will stand at the end of our days  
In Your courts and declare Your great ways,  
In Spirit and Truth.**

**We long for Your kingdom,  
Bring Your thunder and gather the earth.  
All who tremble will tell of Your worth,  
Lord our God!**

***And we will seek Him,  
our Rock of Salvation.  
Morning by morning  
with thanksgiving we come.  
And we will bow down,  
with creation we cry out.  
In daylight and darkness  
we sing to the Lord.***

...

**And we will seek Him,  
our Rock of Salvation.  
Morning by morning  
with thanksgiving we come.  
And we will bow down,  
with creation we cry out.  
In daylight and darkness  
we sing to the Lord.**

**Great is our God,  
Great is our God,  
Great is our God.**

Words and music by Eric 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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

### *Jeremiah 16:1–13*

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place. <sup>3</sup>For thus says the LORD concerning the sons and daughters who are born in this place, and concerning the mothers who bore them and the fathers who fathered them in this land: <sup>4</sup>They shall die of deadly diseases. They shall not be lamented, nor shall they be buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. They shall perish by the sword and by famine, and their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>“For thus says the LORD: Do not enter the house of mourning, or go to lament or grieve for them, for I have taken away My peace from this people, My steadfast love and mercy, declares the LORD. <sup>6</sup>Both great and

small shall die in this land. They shall not be buried, and no one shall lament for them or cut himself or make himself bald for them.<sup>7</sup> No one shall break bread for the mourner, to comfort him for the dead, nor shall anyone give him the cup of consolation to drink for his father or his mother.<sup>8</sup> You shall not go into the house of feasting to sit with them, to eat and drink.<sup>9</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will silence in this place, before your eyes and in your days, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.

<sup>10</sup>“And when you tell this people all these words, and they say to you, ‘Why has the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? What is our iniquity? What is the sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?’<sup>11</sup> then you shall say to them: ‘Because your fathers have forsaken Me, declares the LORD, and have gone after other gods and have served and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and have not kept My law,<sup>12</sup> and because you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to Me.<sup>13</sup> Therefore I will hurl you out of this land into a land that neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor.’”

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Holy God, I offer to You  
my contrite and humbled heart.  
I offer to You my groans,  
messengers of true and real sorrow over sin.  
Of myself, I fail.  
But in You, hope is repaired.  
In You, I find joy once again.  
I am weary and heavy laden.  
You restore my soul and give rest to my soul.  
O most righteous God, yet most kind Father,  
behold how unjustly Your Son suffered for me.  
Forget how unworthily I, Your servant, have acted.  
Look to Christ’s deep wounds and plunge my sins  
into the deepest depths of the sea of Your mercy.**

# 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 Revelation 1:5–6*

**P: To Him who loves us and has freed us from  
our sins by His blood, and has made us to be  
a kingdom and priests to serve His God and  
Father — to Him be glory and power for ever and  
ever! Amen.**

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*His Mercy is More*

**What love could remember  
no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing,  
He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea  
without bottom or shore;  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord,  
His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness,  
New every morn,  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more!***

**What patience would wait  
as we constantly roam?  
What Father, so tender,  
is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest,  
the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more.**

...

***Praise the Lord,  
His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness,  
New every morn,  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness  
He lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment,  
His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt  
we could never afford.  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord,  
His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness,  
New every morn,  
Our sins they are many,  
His mercy is more!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa  
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Publishing | Messenger Hymns

## 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 3:11–24*

<sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

<sup>12</sup> We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of

death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

<sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup> By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; <sup>20</sup> for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. <sup>23</sup> And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

## 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 Fruit of Love”*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER



# SONG OF RESPONSE

## *What Wondrous Love Is This*

**What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

**When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown  
for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb,  
I will sing, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb,  
Who is the great "I AM",  
While millions join the theme,  
I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!**

**And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on!**

American folk hymn; Music by William Walker, *The Southern Harmony* (1835).  
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

*The Nicene Creed*

**P: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who, for us and for our salvation,  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the virgin Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again,  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and Giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And we believe in one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church;  
we acknowledge one baptism  
for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.**

## **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**

*In Christ Alone*

**In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine —  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

...

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry, to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'Till He returns, or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
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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

## 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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and that any automatic payments are being sent  
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