



Ascension PCA

November 21, 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,

*I acknowledge and confess that all things come from You —
life, breath, happiness,
sight, touch, hearing,
goodness, truth, beauty.*

*Give me grace to know more of my need of grace;
Show me my sinfulness that I may willingly confess it;
Reveal to me my weakness that I may know my strength in You.
I need healing,*

*Good Physician, come and manifest Your power;
I need faith;*

*You who have given it me,
maintain, strengthen, increase it,
Centre it upon the Savior's work,
upon the majesty of the Father,
upon the operations of the Spirit;*

*Work it in me now that I may never doubt You
as the truthful, mighty, faithful God.*

*Then I can bring my heart to You
full of love, gratitude, hope, joy.*

~ The Personal Touch from the Valley of Vision (modified)

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 46:1–3,10,11

**P: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved
into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

***“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”***

**The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

ending in the Lord's Prayer

**P: Our Father, Which art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
for Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come As You Are

**Come out of sadness,
From wherever you've been;
Come, broken hearted,
Let rescue begin;
Come find your mercy,
Oh sinner come kneel.
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal;
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't heal.**

***So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.
Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Lay down your heart,
Come as you are.***

**There's hope for the hopeless,
And all those who've strayed;
Come sit at the table,
Come taste the grace.
There's rest for the weary,
A rest that endures;
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't cure.**

***So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.
Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Lay down your heart,
Come as you are.***

***Come as you are,
Fall in his arms,
Come as you are.***

**There's joy for the morning,
Oh sinner be still,
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal.
Earth has no sorrow
That Heaven can't heal.**

***So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.***

***Oh wanderer come home,
You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt,
Lay down your heart,
Come as you are.***

Words and music by Ben Glover, David Crowder, Matt Maher
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worshiptogether.com songs (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

...

**His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

Words by Edward Mote (1834); music by John Stainer (1863).
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 16:14-21

¹⁴ "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' ¹⁵ but 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers.

...

¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares the LORD, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. ¹⁷ For My eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from Me, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes. ¹⁸ But first I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled My inheritance with their abominations.”

¹⁹ O LORD, my strength and my stronghold,
my refuge in the day of trouble,
to You shall the nations come
from the ends of the earth and say:
“Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies,
worthless things in which there is no profit.
²⁰ Can man make for himself gods?
Such are not gods!”

²¹ “Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know My power and My might, and they shall know that My name is the LORD.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from John Knox's Liturgy of 1560

P: Almighty God,

**We are unworthy to come into Your presence,
because of our many sins.**

We do not deserve any grace or mercy from You.

**We have sinned against you, O Lord,
and we have offended You.**

And yet, O Lord,

**as we acknowledge our sins and offenses,
so also do we acknowledge You**

**to be a merciful God,
a loving and favorable Father,
to all who turn to You.**

...

**And so we humbly ask You,
for the sake of Christ Your Son,
to show mercy to us,
and forgive us all our offenses.
Forgive the sins of our youth,
and the sins of our old age.**

**By your Spirit, O God,
take possession of our hearts,
so that, not only the actions of our life,
but also the words of our mouths,
and the smallest thoughts of our minds,
may be guided and governed by You.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
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

John 6:35,40

M: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to Me shall not hunger,
and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.
For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who
looks on the Son and believes in Him should have
eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Through the Precious Blood

**You have ordained every breath we take,
In pleasure or pain there is no mistake.
Gladness and grief, both are in Your hands,
And sufferings brief carry out Your plan.**

**And our fleeting sorrows
will yield an endless prize,
When some bright tomorrow
we'll see You with our eyes.**

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.***

**Father of lights, Giver of all grace,
Your mercies crown our lives all our days.
River of life quench our thirsty souls,
For no true delight does Your love withhold.**

**And in every season
we are satisfied,
For just one reason,
Christ was crucified.**

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.***

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.***

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 4:1–6

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

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

“Spiritual Deception”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

O Great God

**O great God of highest heav'n,
Occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
Conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
Make me Yours forevermore.**

**I was blinded by my sin,
Had no ears to hear Your voice,
Did not know Your love within,
Had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then your Spirit gave me life,
Opened up Your Word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son,
Gave me endless hope and peace.**

**Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face.**

**You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n,
Glorify Your name through me.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin.

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration".

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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.

PRAYER | MEDITATION

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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