



Ascension PCA

April 17, 2022



**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

The resurrection assures us
that when Jesus claimed to be
God's promised Rescuer
and when He claimed to have
the divine authority to forgive repentant sinners
who put their trust in Him,
He spoke the truth.
If He had been lying,
He would not be sitting at the right hand of God
but suffering the penalty due Him
for deceiving millions of people
into trusting a false messiah.
Instead, He was 'declared to be the Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of holiness
by His resurrection from the dead.' (Romans 1:4).
The resurrection is God's stamp of approval
on Jesus' claim to be our Lord and Savior.

~ John Ensor

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

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

from Matthew 28

M: After the Sabbath,
at dawn on the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary
went to look at the tomb.

**P: There was a violent earthquake,
for an angel of the Lord
came down from heaven
and, going to the tomb,
rolled back the stone and sat on it.**

M: His appearance was like lightning,
and his clothes were white as snow.
The guards were so afraid of him
that they shook and became like dead men.

**P: The angel said to the women,
“Do not be afraid,
for I know that you are looking for Jesus,
who was crucified.”**

M: “He is not here; He is risen, just as He said.”

P: He is not here; He is risen! Hallelujah!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**“Christ the Lord is ris’n today,” Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing ye heav’ns, and earth, reply. Alleluia!**

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell: Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise; Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!**

...

Lives again our glorious King; *Alleluia!*
Where, O death, is now thy sting? *Alleluia!*
Once He died, our souls to save; *Alleluia!*
Where thy victory, O grave? *Alleluia!*

Soar we now where Christ has led, *Alleluia!*
Foll'wing our exalted Head; *Alleluia!*
Made like Him, like Him we rise: *Alleluia!*
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. *Alleluia!*

Words by Charles Wesley (1739). Music from *Lyra Davidica* (1708; alt.)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice!**

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands.*

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered,
That the guilty may go free.**

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands.*

**With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting vict'ry from the grave
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.**

**No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends each burning eye
At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife,
For those He came to save.**

**His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851) Music by George Job Elvey (1868)
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 23:23–40

²³ “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away?
²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’
²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart,
²⁷ who think to make My people forget My name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot My name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has My word speak My word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹ Is not My word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? ³⁰ Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal My words from one another. ³¹ Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, ‘declares the LORD.’ ³² Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead My people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD.
³³ “When one of this people, or a prophet or a priest asks you, ‘What is the burden of the LORD?’ you shall say to them, ‘You are the burden, and I will cast you off, declares the LORD.’ ³⁴ And as for the prophet, priest, or one of the people who says, ‘The burden of the LORD,’ I will punish that man and his household. ³⁵ Thus shall you say, every one to his neighbor and every one to his brother, ‘What has the LORD answered?’ or ‘What has the LORD spoken?’
³⁶ But ‘the burden of the LORD’ you shall mention no more, for the burden is every man’s own word, and you pervert the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God. ³⁷ Thus you shall say to the prophet, ‘What has the LORD answered you?’ or ‘What has the LORD spoken?’ ³⁸ But if you say, ‘The burden of the LORD,’ thus says the LORD, ‘Because you have said these words, “The burden

of the LORD," when I sent to you, saying, "You shall not say, 'The burden of the LORD,'" ³⁹ therefore, behold, I will surely lift you up and cast you away from My presence, you and the city that I gave to you and your fathers. ⁴⁰ And I will bring upon you everlasting reproach and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Almighty God, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
We acknowledge that we are unworthy of Your redeeming grace.
We have not believed Your promises nor trusted in our living Lord.
Our hearts have not burned within us as we have heard His Word.
We have not fully trusted in His redeeming power.
We have forgotten the glad tidings of His victory over death,
And have not known the things that belong to our peace.
But now in penitence we come to You asking for Your forgiveness.
Mercifully forgive us from all our sins and restore unto us the joy of Your salvation.
For Jesus Christ's sake,
our only Mediator and Advocate,
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.

AFFIRMATION OF PRAISE & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from 1 Corinthians 15

**M: If Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile;
you are still in your sins.
Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.**

...

**P: If only for this life we have hope in Christ,
we are to be pitied more than all men.**

M: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead
comes also through a man.

**P: For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be made alive.
But each in his own turn:
Christ, the firstfruits;
then, when He comes,
those who belong to him.**

M: When the perishable
has been clothed with the imperishable,
and the mortal with immortality,
then the saying that is written will come true:
"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

**P: Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Man of Sorrows! What a Name

**Man of Sorrows! What a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim:
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

**Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood,
Sealed my pardon with His blood:
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

**Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full atonement! Can it be?
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

**Lifted up was He to die,
"It is finished!" was His cry:
Now in heav'n exalted high:
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

**When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

Words and music by Philip P. Bliss (1875). 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Acts 2:1–41

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians — we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

...

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the LORD comes, the great
and magnificent day.
²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name
of the Lord shall be saved.'

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know — ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

²⁴ God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning Him,

"I saw the LORD always before me,
for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
²⁷ For You will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let Your Holy One see corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
You will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that He would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,
 “The LORD said to my Lord,
 “Sit at My right hand,
³⁵ until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Hm both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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

*“Power From On High”
Pastor Austin Clement*

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

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 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

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

Behold the Lamb

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us — and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.**

**The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Torn for you — eat and remember:
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.**

**The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you — drink and remember:
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.**

**And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond — and to remember:
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.**

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

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

**10:00AM: 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.