



Ascension PCA

June 19, 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 sands of time are sinking,
the dawn of Heaven breaks,
The summer morn I've sighed for,
the fair sweet morn awakes;
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
but dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth...
In Immanuel's land.*

~ Anne Cousin

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

**P: O Gracious and Holy God,
Creator of all things and our Redeemer,
worthy are You to receive honor, glory, and praise!**

**As we gather in Your name this day,
draw near to us as we desire to draw near to You.**

**Grant us the grace to diligently seek You;
hearts to love You,
eyes to behold You,
wisdom to discern Your presence,
ears to listen to Your Word,
minds to meditate on who You are,
lips to proclaim Your praise,
and wills to obey Your call.**

For the glory of Your name and in Jesus' Name, amen.

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

Romans 11:33–36

**M: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge
of God! How unsearchable are His judgments
and how inscrutable His ways!**

**“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been His counselor?”**

**“Or who has given a gift to Him
that He might be repaid?”**

**P: For from Him and through Him and to Him
are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

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!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall;
Join in the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all;
Join in the everlasting song
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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:31-47

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered Him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill Me because My word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

³⁹ They answered Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did." They said to Him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father — even God."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of My own accord, but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear My word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: O Great God,

**We are ashamed to come before You;
for we have preferred the ways of this world
to Your ways.**

**we have rebelled against Your wisdom,
and we have rejected Your fatherly guidance.**

**Incline Your ear to our troubles.
Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before You.
Forgive us,
not on the ground of our own righteousness,
but on the ground of Your great mercy,
in the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
It is in His name that we pray,
for He is our Savior. 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.

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Ephesians 1:7–8 & Isaiah 12:1–2

- M:** In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.
- P:** **We will give thanks to you, O Lord.
Although you were angry with us,
Your anger turned away,
and You have comforted us.
Surely God is our salvation;
we will trust, and not be afraid.**

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

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 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.**

**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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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 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

Psalm 10

- 1 Why, O LORD, do You stand far away?
Why do you hide Yourself in times of trouble?
- 2 In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;
let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.
- 3 For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,
and the one greedy for gain
curses and renounces the LORD.
- 4 In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him;
all his thoughts are, "There is no God."
- 5 His ways prosper at all times;
Your judgments are on high, out of his sight;
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.
- 6 He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;
throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."
- 7 His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.
- 8 He sits in ambush in the villages;
in hiding places he murders the innocent.
His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

9 he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;
he lurks that he may seize the poor;
he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.
10 The helpless are crushed, sink down,
and fall by his might.
11 He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,
He has hidden His face, He will never see it."
12 Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;
forget not the afflicted.
13 Why does the wicked renounce God
and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?
14 But You do see, for You note mischief and vexation,
that You may take it into Your hands;
to You the helpless commits himself;
You have been the helper of the fatherless.
15 Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer;
call his wickedness to account till You find none.
16 The LORD is king forever and ever;
the nations perish from His land.
17 O LORD, You hear the desire of the afflicted;
You will strengthen their heart; You will incline Your ear
18 to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,
so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

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

"Where is God?"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights
with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

He Will Hold Me Fast

**When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life;
He will hold me fast;
'Till our faith is turned to sight,
When He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918)
Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker
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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 TOGETHER

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8 (I & V)

**P: It pleased God, in His eternal purpose,
to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus,
His only begotten Son,
to be the Mediator between God and man,
the Prophet, Priest, and King,
the Head and Savior of His church,
the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world:
to whom He did from all eternity give a people,
to be His seed,
and to be by Him in time redeemed,
called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.**

**The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience,
and sacrifice of Himself,
which He, through the eternal Spirit,
once offered up unto God,
has fully satisfied the justice of His Father;
and purchased, not only reconciliation,
but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom
of heaven,
for all those whom the Father has given to Him.**

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.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please come forward to receive the elements from the elders 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



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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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.