



Ascension PCA

July 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.

WELCOME TO ASCENSION!

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

**We are delighted that you are here,
especially if this is your first time with us.**

- **Connect Cards:** We would love to know that you were here this morning and encourage you to fill in a Connect Card so that we can follow up with you, answer your questions, or pray for you. We also invite you to join us for refreshments and conversation after the service.
- **To Parents of Young Children:** We have a staffed nursery for babies to toddlers age 3 across the hallway. We encourage younger children to remain with us and participate during the service. They are not a distraction! Feel free to sit up front where your child can more easily see and hear what is happening.
- **Bibles:** If you don't have a copy of God's Word, please help yourself to one of the free Bibles from the book cart as our gift to you to take home.
- **APC @ a Glance:** Please feel free to join us for any of our weekly events and fellowship opportunities. More information can be found on the blue sheets on the welcome table.

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Scripture text from

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

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

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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,
center 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

1 Chronicles 16: 28–34

M: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

**P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
bring an offering and come before Him!**

M: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before Him, all the earth;
yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

**P: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations,
“The LORD reigns!”**

M: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD,
for He comes to judge the earth.

**P: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalms 84

**O Lord of hosts, how lovely
the place where Thou dost dwell!
Thy tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.
My soul is longing, fainting,
Jehovah’s courts to see;
My heart and flesh are crying,
O living God, for Thee.**

**So they from strength unwearied
go forward unto strength,
Till they appear in Zion
before the Lord at length.
O hear, Lord God of Jacob,
to me an answer yield;
The face of Thine Anointed,
behold, O God, our Shield.**

**O God of hosts, Jehovah,
how blest is everyone
Who confidence reposes
on Thee, O Lord, alone.
O Lord of Hosts, how lovely
the place where Thou dost dwell!
Thy tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.**

Words from Psalm 84; *Book of Psalms* (1871); alt.
Music by Henry T. Smart (1836).
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 and music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell.
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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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-21

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”

¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to Him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Eternal God,
in whom we live, and move, and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget
in the blindness of our hearts:
Cleanse us, we pray, from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts
and vain desires,
that with lowliness and meekness
we may draw near to You,
confessing our sins, confiding in Your grace,
and finding in You our Refuge and our Strength.
Through Jesus Christ, Your Son.
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

adapted from Romans 5:8 and Hebrews 4:16

M: The proof of God's amazing love is this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace
to help us in our time of need.

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

O Help My Unbelief

**How sad our state by nature is!
Our sin, how deep it stains!
And Satan binds our captive minds
Fast in his slavish chains.**

***But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,
sounds from the sacred Word:
"O, ye despairing sinners come,
and trust upon the Lord."***

**My soul obeys th'almighty call,
And runs to this relief.
I would believe Thy promise, Lord;
O help my unbelief!**

***To the dear fountain of Thy blood,
incarnate God, I fly;
Here let me wash my spotted soul,
from crimes of deepest dye.***

**Stretch out Thine arm, victorious King,
My reigning sins subdue;
Drive the old dragon from his seat,
With all his hellish crew.**

***A guilty, weak, and helpless worm,
on Thy kind arms I fall;
Be Thou my strength and righteousness,
O Jesus, and my all.***

***But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,
sounds from the sacred Word:
"O, ye despairing sinners come,
and trust upon the Lord."***

Words by Isaac Watts (1707–1709). Music by Justin Smith (2007).
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'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy, and peace.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
will be with me to the end.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

Words by Louisa M. R. Stead (1882).
Music by William J. Kirkpatrick (1882).
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

Psalm 118

- 1 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!
- 2 Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 3 Let the house of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 4 Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 5 Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.
- 6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?
- 7 The LORD is on my side as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
- 8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in man.
- 9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.
- 10 All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
- 11 They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
- 12 They surrounded me like bees;
they went out like a fire among thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
- 13 I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.
- 15 Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
the right hand of the LORD exalts,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"
- 17 I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- 18 The LORD has disciplined me severely,
but He has not given me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
20 This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
21 I thank You that You have answered me
and have become my salvation.
22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
23 This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
24 This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
25 Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!
26 Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless You from the house of the LORD.
27 The LORD is God,
and He has made His light to shine upon us.
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!
28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;
You are my God; I will extol You.
29 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!

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

"He is Good!"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

Lined area for sermon notes, consisting of 28 horizontal lines.

GIVING TO THE LORD

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore brothers,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.**

**O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.**

**Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh come, lead us, with mighty hand
Through exile to the promised land.**

...

**There shall we all our praises bring
Ever to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore,
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.**

Words from Old German spiritual song (1623);
tr. by Martin L. Seltz (1909–1967). Music by Nathan Partain.
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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

Colossians 1:15–20

**P: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For by Him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities —
all things were created through Him
and for Him.
And He is before all things,
and in Him all things hold together.
And He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything He might be preeminent.
For in Him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell,
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of His cross.**

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



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

**10:00AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

Meeting Address:

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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.