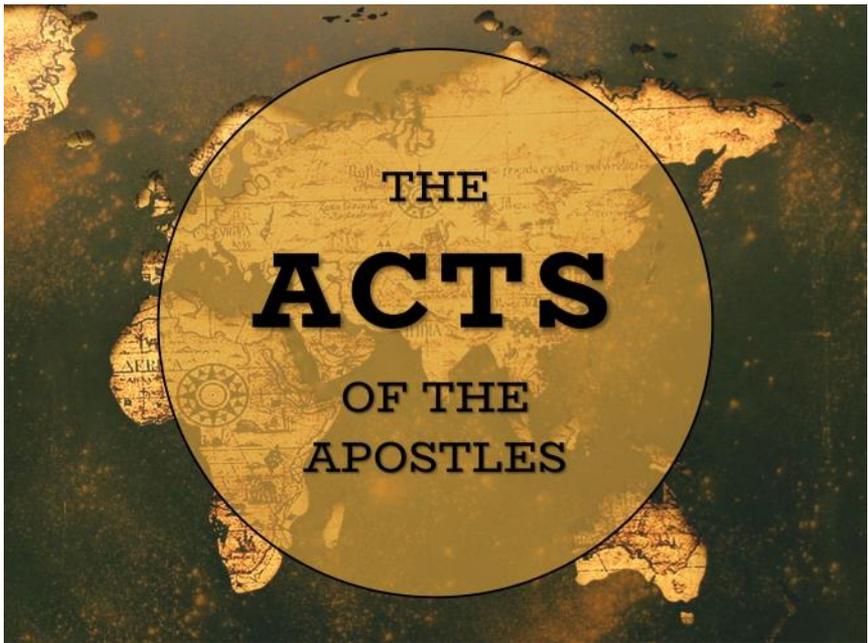




Ascension PCA

July 31, 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 Cards 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 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 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

*Whate'er my God ordains is right:
His holy will abideth;
I will be still, whate'er He doth,
and follow where He guideth.
He is my God; though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall:
wherefore to Him I leave it all.*

*Whate'er my God ordains is right:
here shall my stand be taken;
though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
yet am I not forsaken.
My Father's care is round me there;
He holds me that I shall not fall:
and so to Him I leave it all.*

~ Samuel Rodigast

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 Colossians 1 & 1 Timothy 1:17

M: Let us give thanks to the Father,
Who has qualified us to share in the inheritance
of the saints in the kingdom of light.
For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

P: **Now to the eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God...
be honor and glory for ever and ever! Amen.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

O Worship the King

**O worship the King,
all glorious above,
And gratefully sing
His pow'r and His love;
Our Shield and Defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor,
and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might,
O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light,
Whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path
on the wings of the storm.**

**O measureless might,
ineffable love!
While angels delight
to worship above.**

...

**Thy mercies how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words by Robert Grant (1833)

Music by Johann M. Haydn (1737–1806), arr. William Gardiner (1815)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Glorious and Mighty

**Majesty, Your glory is shining
Brighter than the moon and the stars.
Marveling, we honor and fear You
above all gods.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens;
Your decrees can never be changed.
Over all the plans of the nations,
Your judgments reign.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation;
When You come again in the clouds.
Every knee will bow down and worship
the one true God.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
Greatly to be praised!***

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining

Music by Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining

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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 27:12–22

¹² To Zedekiah king of Judah I spoke in like manner: “Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people and live. ¹³ Why will you and your people die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as the LORD has spoken concerning any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? ¹⁴ Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are saying to you, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon,’ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you. ¹⁵ I have not sent them, declares the LORD, but they are prophesying falsely in My name, with the result that I will drive you out and you will perish, you and the prophets who are prophesying to you.”

¹⁶ Then I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, “Thus says the LORD: Do not listen to the words of your prophets who are prophesying to you, saying, ‘Behold, the vessels of the LORD’s house will now shortly be brought back from Babylon,’ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you.

¹⁷ Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon and live. Why should this city become a desolation? ¹⁸ If they are prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, then let them intercede with the LORD of hosts, that the vessels that are left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon. ¹⁹ For thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the pillars, the sea, the stands, and the rest of the vessels that are left in this city, ²⁰ which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take away, when he took into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem — ²¹ thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that are left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem: ²² They shall be carried to Babylon and remain there until the day when I visit them, declares the LORD. Then I will bring them back and restore them to this place.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Father, we are gathered before You,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken
and contrite, to confess —
that we have sinned
in thought and word and deed;
that we have not loved You
with all our heart and soul,
that we have not loved You
with all our mind and strength;
that we have not even loved
our neighbor as ourselves.**

**In Your mercy, deepen our sorrow
for the wrong we have done
and for the good we have left undone,
so that we may hate our sin with a holy hatred.
But, please Father, do not leave us in sorrow.
With You, O LORD, there is forgiveness.
In Your mercy, restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love You with a holy love.**

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

Romans 8:1, 38, 39

**M: There is therefore no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.
For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Beautiful, Scandalous Night

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy,
To the crimson, perpetual tide;
Kneel down on the shore,
Be thirsty no more,
Go under and be purified.**

**Follow Christ to the holy mountain;
Sinner, sorry and wrecked by fall,
Cleanse your heart and your soul
In the fountain that flows
For you and for me and for all.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
On that beautiful, scandalous night
You and me
Were atoned by His blood
And forever washed white
On that beautiful, scandalous night.*

**On the hillside you will be delivered,
At the foot of the cross justified;
And your spirit restored
By the river that pours
From our blessed Savior's side.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
On that beautiful, scandalous night
You and me
Were atoned by His blood
And forever washed white
On that beautiful, scandalous night ...
... on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

Words and music by Derald Daugherty and Steve Hindalong
© 1995 Never Say Never Songs

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 2:42-47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

"A Flourishing Church"

Pastor Austin Clement

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters.
Either he will hate the one
and love the other,
or he will be devoted to the one
and despise the other.
You cannot serve both God and money.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

My Redeemer

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt
and made me free.***

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt
and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)
Townend Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

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

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1

M: What is your only comfort in life and death?

**P: I believe that I am not my own,
but belong —
body and soul,
in life and in death —
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for my sins
with His precious blood,
and has set me free
from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together
for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him,
Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for 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.

SONG OF MEDITATION

Fairest Lord Jesus

**Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior!
Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be Thine.**

Words from *Münster Gesangbuch* (1677); tr. by Joseph Seiss (1873)
Music from *Schlesische Volkslieder* (1842)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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:

8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Mailing Address:

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APC Office:

Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM-5:00PM)

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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.