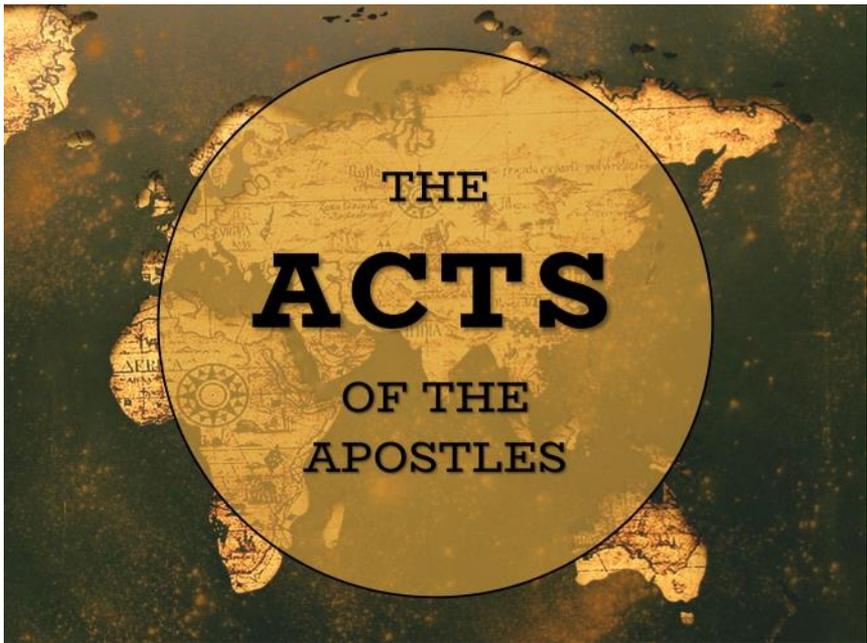




**Ascension** PCA

October 16, 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 with One Another:**

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. Our practice of wearing *Name Tags* is to make you feel more comfortable among us, help you to identify staff and leadership, and make it easier for you to connect with us. See our back page for contact information. We heartily invite you to join us for *refreshments* and conversation after the service.

## **To Parents of Young Children:**

If you would like to utilize it, we have a staffed *Nursery* for children through age 3 across the hall. We encourage younger children to remain with us during the service. They are not a distraction! *Clipboards for kids* are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child. Feel free to sit up front where your child can more easily see and hear what is happening.

## **Free Biblical Resources:**

If you don't have a copy of God's Word, please help yourself to one of the free Bibles as our gift for you to take home. You are also welcome to browse the literature and resources available to you on the Welcome Table, carts, and stands.

Joyfully worshipping together  
as the family of God,  
with reverence and awe,  
mindful of our heritage  
as well as our present context.



## 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

“Every time we look at the cross

Christ seems to say to us,

‘I am here because of you.

It is your sin I am bearing,

your curse I am suffering,

your debt I am paying,

your death I am dying.’

Nothing in history or in the universe

cuts us down to size like the cross.

All of us have inflated views of ourselves,

especially in self-righteousness,

until we have visited a place called Calvary.

It is there, at the foot of the cross,

that we shrink to our true size.”

~ John Stott

# 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

M: The earth is the LORD's, for He made it:

**P: Come, let us adore Him.**

M: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness:

**P: Come, let us adore Him.**

M: The mercy of the LORD is everlasting:

**P: Come, let us adore Him.**

M: LORD, open our lips.

**P: And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee*

**Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee  
for the bliss Thy love bestows;  
For the pard'ning grace that saves me,  
and the peace that from it flows.**

**Help, O God, my weak endeavor;  
this dull soul to rapture raise:  
Thou must light the flame, or never  
can my love be warmed to praise.**

**Praise, my soul, the God that sought me,  
wretched wand'r'er far astray;  
Found me lost, and kindly brought me  
from the paths of death away.**

**Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,  
Him who saw my guilt-born fear;  
And, the light of hope revealing,  
bade the blood-stained cross appear.**

**Praise my Savior God that drew me  
to that cross, new life to give;  
Held a blood-sealed pardon to me,  
bade me look to Him and live.**

**Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,  
roused me from my fatal ease;  
Praise the grace whose promise warmed me,  
praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817).  
Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*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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## 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

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

*Ruling Elder Theo Vander Wel*

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
- 2 it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.
- 3 Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.
- 4 Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

- 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
7 the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
8 And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
9 No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven.**

**Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ,  
we have tried so hard to pile up good deeds  
that outweigh our sins.**

**When this doesn't work,  
we quickly turn to denial and distraction.**

**Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
we have tried to change through our own efforts.**

**This has left us discouraged, anxious and depressed.**

**Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves.**

**Forgive us for neglecting Your grace.**

**Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. 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

*Psalm 103:11–12*

M: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is His steadfast love  
toward those who fear Him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)*

**Out of the depths I cry to You,  
in darkest places I will call,  
Incline Your ear to me anew,  
and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,  
how could I come before Your throne?  
Yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,  
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You,  
on Your word I will rely.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
till my soul is satisfied.*

**So put Your hope in God alone,  
take courage in His power to save,  
Completely and forever won  
by Christ emerging from the grave.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You,  
on Your word I will rely.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
till my soul is satisfied.*

**Now He has come to make a way,  
and God Himself has paid the price,  
That all who trust in Him today  
find healing in His sacrifice.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
through the storm and through the night.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You,  
for Your love is my delight.*

Words and music by

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend  
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Townend Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

# 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 3:1–26*

<sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup> Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

<sup>4</sup> And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

<sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

<sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And His name — by faith in His name — has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

<sup>17</sup> “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to Him in whatever He tells you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ <sup>26</sup> God, having raised up His servant, sent Him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

## 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 in the Name”*

*Pastor Austin Clement*

## PRAYER





# GIVING TO THE LORD

*Hebrews 13:16*

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

# SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*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;  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown Him Lord of all;  
We'll join 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

# 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

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*from the Belgic Confession, Art. 35*

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper to nourish and sustain those who are born again and grafted into His family: His church.

Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread as the sacrament of his body and wine as the sacrament of His blood.

**P: Just as truly as we take and hold the sacraments  
in our hands  
and eat and drink them in our mouths,  
by which our life is then sustained,  
so truly we receive into our souls,  
for our spiritual life,  
the true body and true blood of Christ,  
our only Savior.  
We receive these by faith,  
which is the hand and mouth of our souls.**

M: This banquet is a spiritual table at which Christ communicates Himself to us with all His benefits.

**P: By the use of this holy sacrament  
we are moved to a fervent love of God  
and our neighbors.**

## 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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Scripture text from

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## ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

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

**Meeting Address:**

8224 220<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

**APC Office:**

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

(425) 286-8617 [office@ascension-pca.org](mailto:office@ascension-pca.org)

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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.