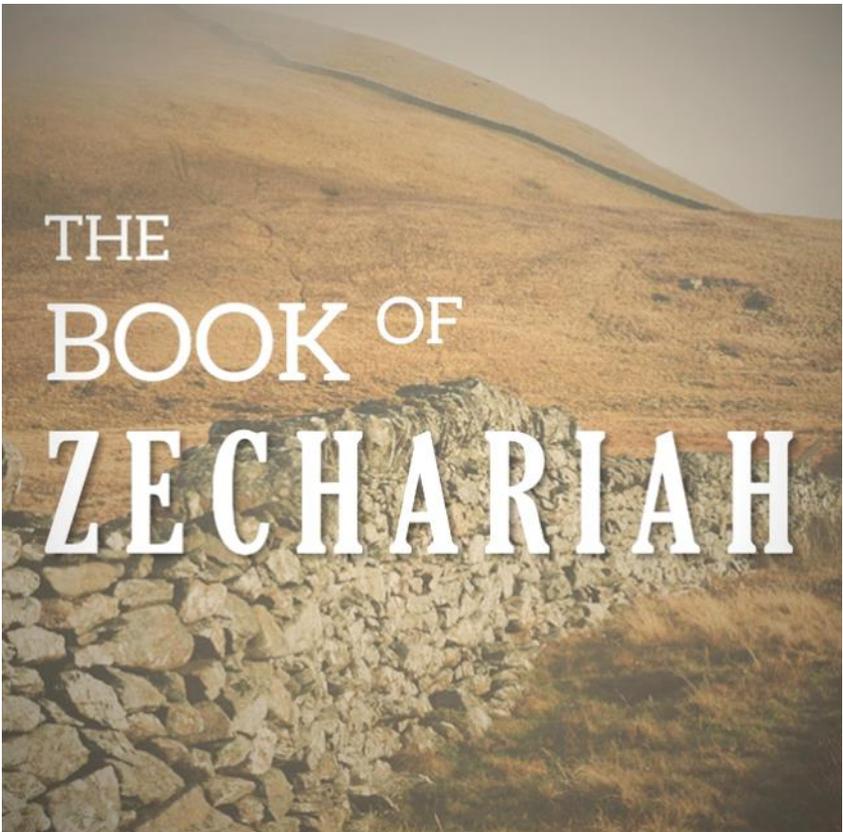




**Ascension** PCA

**October 23, 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

The best way of casting out an impure affection  
is to admit a pure one;  
and by the love of what is good,  
to expel the love of what is evil ...  
Thus it is, that the freer the Gospel,  
the more sanctifying is the Gospel;  
and the more it is received as a doctrine of grace,  
the more will it be felt as a doctrine  
according to godliness.  
This is one of the secrets of the Christian life ...

~ Thomas Chalmers

# 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 I Chronicles 16*

**P: Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;  
make known among the nations what He has done.  
Sing to Him, sing praise to Him;  
tell of all His wonderful acts.  
Glory in His holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*Behold our God*

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.  
All creation rises to rejoice.**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.***

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

***Behold our King! Nothing can compare.***

***Come let us adore Him!***

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the One who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.***

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

***Behold our King! Nothing can compare.***

***Come let us adore Him!***

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave,  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

**Behold our God, seated on His throne.  
Come, let us adore Him.  
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.  
Come let us adore ...  
Behold our God, seated on His throne.  
Come, let us adore Him.  
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.  
Come let us adore Him!**

Words and music by  
Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)  
© 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals join the happy chorus,  
which the morning stars began;  
God the Father reigning o'er us,  
Jesus bringing life to man.  
Ever singing, by the Spirit,  
victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us onward,  
in the blessed song of life.**

Words by Henry van Dyke (1907).  
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827).  
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 14:1-31*

<sup>1</sup> "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going."

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. <sup>11</sup> Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

<sup>15</sup> "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

<sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words. And the word that you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard Me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from "The Broken Heart" in the Valley of Vision*

**P: Blessed Jesus, though my sins rise to heaven,  
Your merits soar above them.**

**I appeal from the throne of perfect justice  
to Your throne of boundless grace.**

**I am guilty, but pardoned,  
lost, but saved,  
wandering, but found,  
sinning, but cleansed.**

**Give me perpetual broken-heartedness,  
keep me always clinging to the cross,  
flood me every moment with descending grace.  
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

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
as Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.**

***Great is Thy faithfulness!***

***Great is Thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;***

***Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

***Great is Thy faithfulness!***

***Great is Thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;***

***Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

***Great is Thy faithfulness!***

***Great is Thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;***

***Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

Words by Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1923).

Music by William Marion Runyan (1923).

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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

*Zechariah 5:1–11*

<sup>1</sup> Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a flying scroll!

<sup>2</sup> And he said to me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits." <sup>3</sup> Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land. For everyone who steals shall be cleaned out according to what is on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cleaned out according to what is on the other side. <sup>4</sup> I will send it out, declares the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by My name. And it shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones."

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel who talked with me came forward and said to me, "Lift your eyes and see what this is that is going out." <sup>6</sup> And I said, "What is it?" He said, "This is the basket that is going out." And he said, "This is their iniquity in all the land." <sup>7</sup> And behold, the leaden cover was lifted, and there was a woman sitting in the basket!

<sup>8</sup> And he said, "This is Wickedness." And he thrust her back into the basket, and thrust down the leaden weight on its opening.

<sup>9</sup> Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming forward! The wind was in their wings. They had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. <sup>10</sup> Then I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they taking the basket?" <sup>11</sup> He said to me, "To the land of Shinar, to build a house for it. And when this is prepared, they will set the basket down there on its base."





## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Lamentations 3:22–24*

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is Your faithfulness.  
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in Him.”

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Refiner's Fire*

**Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold  
and precious silver.**

**Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold,  
pure gold.**

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire,  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

**Purify my heart  
cleanse me from within  
and make me holy.**

**Purify my heart  
cleanse me from my sin,  
deep within.**

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire,  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

Words and music by Brian Doerksen (1990).  
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# 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 Ed Volz*

## CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*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,  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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.**

## 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

## *I Come By the Blood*

**You are the perfect and righteous God  
Whose presence bears no sin;  
You bid me come to Your holy place;  
How can I enter in,  
when Your presence bears no sin?  
Through Him who poured out His life for me,  
the atoning Lamb of God,  
Through Him and His work alone,  
I boldly come.**

*I come by the blood,  
I come by the cross,  
Where Your mercy flows  
from hands pierced for me.*

*For I dare not stand  
on my righteousness,  
My every hope rests  
on what Christ has done.  
and I come  
by the blood.*

**You are the high and exalted King,  
the One the angels fear;  
So far above me in every way,  
Lord, how can I draw near  
to the One the angels fear?  
Through Him who laid down His life for me,  
and ascended to Your side,  
Through Him, through Jesus alone  
I boldly come.**

*I come by the blood,  
I come by the cross,  
Where Your mercy flows  
from hands pierced for me.*

*For I dare not stand  
on my righteousness,  
My every hope rests  
on what Christ has done.  
and I come  
by the blood.*

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (1994).  
© 1994 Sovereign Grace Worship

# 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

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

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

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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.