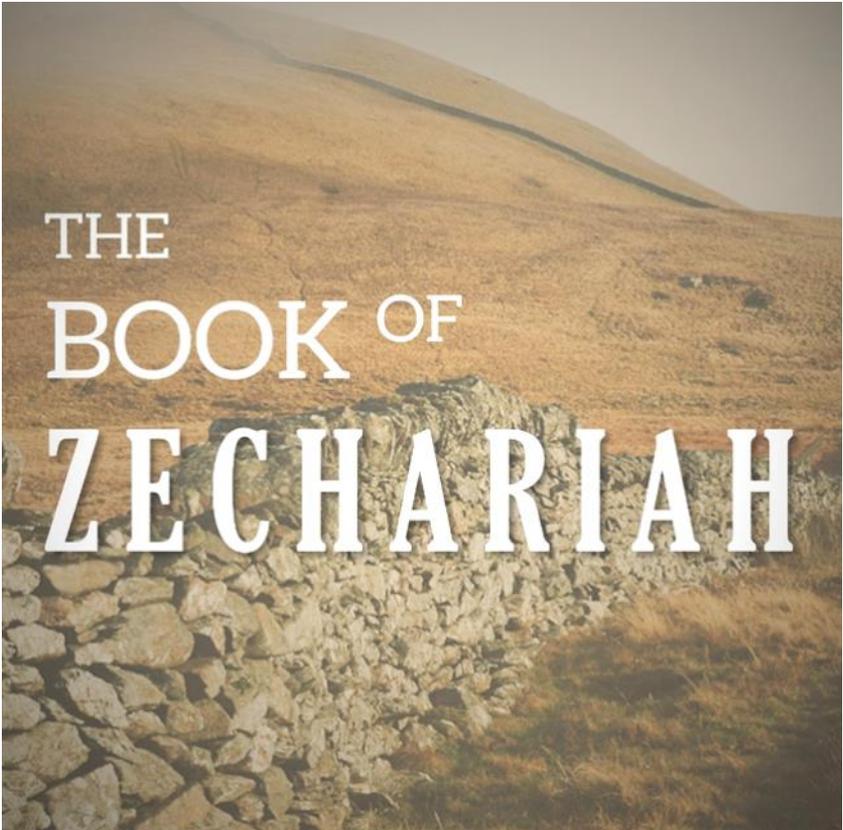




Ascension PCA

November 6, 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

O God, Who hast prepared for them that love Thee
such good things as pass man's understanding,
pour into our hearts such love toward Thee,
that we, loving Thee above all things,
may obtain Thy promises,
which exceed all that we can desire,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ *The Book of Common Prayer*

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 1 Kings 8:56–57

M: Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest
to His people Israel just as He promised.
Not one word has failed of all the good promises
He gave through His servant Moses or any of His prophets.

P: **May the LORD our God be with us
as He was with our fathers;
may He never leave us nor forsake us.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

All Creatures of Our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam,
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Words by St. Francis of Assisi (circa 1225);
translated by William Henry Draper (1926).
Music from *Geistlich Kirchengesäng*, Cologne (1623).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

This Is Our God

**God our Father, full of power,
Maker of the heavens, Maker of the world;
forming all things, seen and unseen,
truly the Almighty, beyond all measure worth;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,
born unto a virgin, lived a perfect life;
greatly suffered, dying for us.
From the grave He's risen, seated now on high;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,
speaking through the prophets,
empowering the Church;
life is given by and through Him,
with the Son and Father, worshipped and adored;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

Words & music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce,
Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones (2015).

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I Will Glory in My Redeemer

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
and hung Him on that judgment tree.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the Holy Judge:
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer.
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness, my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (2001).
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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 15:18-27

Elder Chris Sledge

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours.

²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of My name, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates Me hates My Father also.

²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated Me without a cause.'

²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 25:6-8, 11

**P: Be mindful of Your mercy, O LORD,
and of Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for Your goodness' sake, O LORD!
Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
For Your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

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

Galatians 1:3-5

**M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave Himself for our sins
to rescue us from the present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

**How deep the Father's love for us;
how vast beyond all measure,
That He would give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
the Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen One
bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross;
my guilt upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there,
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Words & music by Stuart Townend (1995).
© 1995 ThankYou Music

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Zechariah 7:1-14

¹ In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, which is Chislev. ² Now the people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-melech and their men to entreat the favor of the LORD, ³ saying to the priests of the house of the LORD of hosts and the prophets, "Should I weep and abstain in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?"

⁴ Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me:

⁵ "Say to all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for Me that you fasted? ⁶ And when you eat and when you drink, do you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves?"

⁷ Were not these the words that the LORD proclaimed by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and prosperous, with her cities around her, and the South and the lowland were inhabited?"

⁸ And the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying,

⁹ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, ¹⁰ do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart." ¹¹ But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. ¹² They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of hosts. ¹³ "As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear," says the LORD of hosts, ¹⁴ "and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate."

GIVING TO THE LORD

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this my plea,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Words and music by Robert Lowry (1876).

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

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

The Nicene Creed

**P: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who, for us and for our salvation,
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again,
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and Giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets.**

...

**And we believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church;
we acknowledge one baptism
for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.**

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

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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

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Mailing 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.