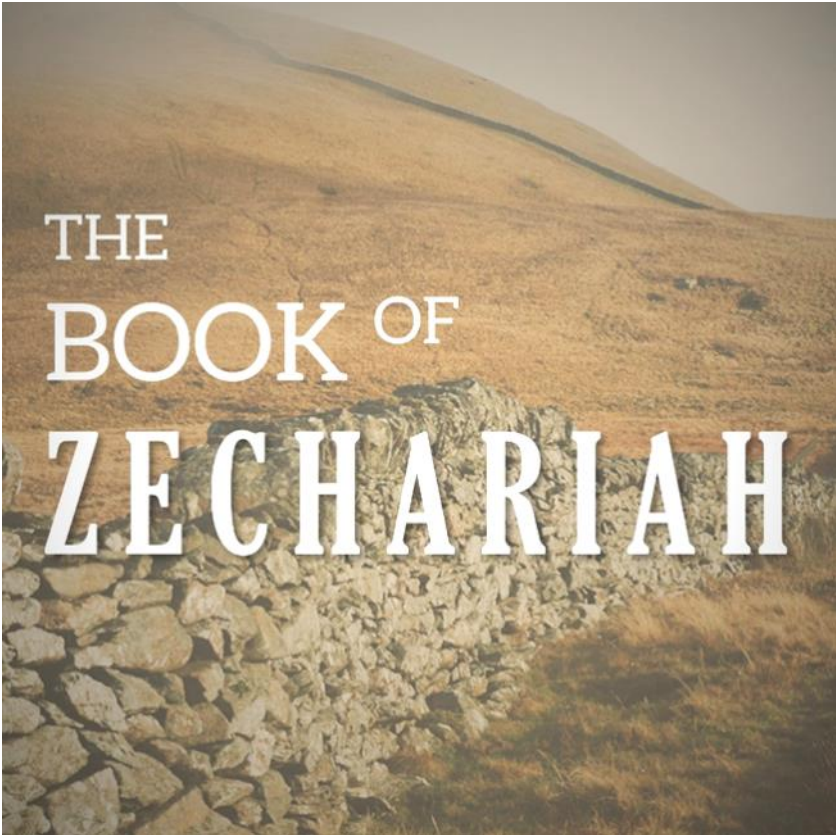




Ascension PCA

November 13, 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

"Then the church shall be brought to the full enjoyment of her bridegroom, having all tears wiped away from her eyes, and there shall be no more distance or absence.

She shall then be brought to the entertainments of an eternal wedding feast, and to dwell forever with her bridegroom, yea, to dwell eternally in His embraces.

Then Christ will give her His loves, and she shall drink her fill, yea, she shall swim in the ocean of His love."

~ Jonathan Edwards

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

2 Corinthians 1:2 ; Psalm 91:1; Psalm 37:7

M: Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

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.
© 2002 New Spring, DeJamesolo Music, Curb Word Music.

Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;
behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.**

**No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.**

**His reign shall know no end;
and round His piercéd feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

...

**Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851) Music by George Job Elvey (1868).
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 16:1-15

Elder Theo Vander Wel

¹ "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor Me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are you going?'

⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;
¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Merciful God,

**Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe;
born in my birth,
alive in my life,
strong in my character,
it follows me as a shadow,
and so easily holds me captive.**

**Yet I confess that Your compassions yearn over me,
Your heart hastens to my rescue,
Your love endured my curse,
Your mercy bore my justice.**

**So have mercy on me, a guilty sinner.
Wash me whiter than snow,
bathed in the blood of Your Son.**

**And give me grace to walk in humility,
tender of conscience,
living in triumph as an heir of salvation
through Your blessed name. 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.*

THE GOOD NEWS

Hebrews 10:11–14

M: And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

SONGS OF ASSURANCE & PREPARATION

The Precious Blood

**Before the cross I kneel and see
the measure of my sin,
how You became a curse for me,
though You were innocent.
The magnitude of Your great love
was shown in full degree,
when righteous blood, the crimson spill,
rained down from Calvary.**

***Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.***

***Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.***

***It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.***

**And who am I that I should know
this treasure of such worth?
My Savior's pure atoning blood,
shed for the wrath I'd earned.
For sin has stained my every deed,
my every word and thought.
What wondrous love that makes me one
Your priceless blood has bought.**

***Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.***

***Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.***

***It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.***

***A crown of thorns,
pierced hands and feet,
a body bruised,
and Mercy's plea.***

***A crown of thorns,
pierced hands and feet,
a body bruised,
and Mercy's plea.***

***Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.
Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.
It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.***

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "The Precious Blood".
Music and words by Peter Gagnon (2006).
© 2005 Sovereign Grace Worship

Speak, O Lord

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,
to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness;
That the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes for Your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail —
let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us —
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built,
and the earth is filled with Your glory.**

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
© 2005 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Zechariah 8:1–23

¹ And the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying,
² "Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.

³ Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain. ⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age.

⁵ And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. ⁶ Thus says the LORD of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in My sight, declares the LORD of hosts? ⁷ Thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, I will save My people from the east country and from the west country, ⁸ and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness."

⁹ Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Let your hands be strong, you who in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets who were present on the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.

¹⁰ For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for beast, neither was there any safety from the foe for him who went out or came in, for I set every man against his neighbor. ¹¹ But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the LORD of hosts. ¹² For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its

produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.
¹³ And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong."

¹⁴ For thus says the LORD of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the LORD of hosts, ¹⁵ so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not. ¹⁶ These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; ¹⁷ do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the LORD."

¹⁸ And the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying,
¹⁹ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.

²⁰ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. ²¹ The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, 'Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going.' ²² Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. ²³ Thus says the LORD of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

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.**

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Timothy 6:17

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God who provides us with everything to enjoy.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

**I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
the house of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved
with His own precious blood.**

**I love Thy church, O God:
Her walls before Thee stand,
dear as the apple of Thine eye,
and graven on Thy hand.**

**Jesus, Thou friend divine,
our Savior and our King.
Thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe
shall great deliv'rance bring.**

**Sure as Thy truth shall last,
to Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield,
and brighter bliss of heav'n.**

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

Romans 8:11, 16-17, 31-32, 35a, 37-39

M If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

P: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

M: What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all,
how will he not also with Him graciously give us all things?
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

P: 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.

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

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)**

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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.