



Ascension PCA

March 12, 2023



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

*Gracious and Holy Father, please give me:
intellect to understand You;
reason to discern You;
diligence to seek You;
wisdom to find You;
a spirit to know You;
a heart to meditate upon You;
ears to hear You;
eyes to see You;
a tongue to proclaim You;
a way of life pleasing to You;
patience to wait for You;
perseverance to look for You.*

~ Benedict of Nursia (480–547 AD)

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!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 42:5-6a,8

M: Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people on it,
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
 I will take you by the hand and keep you; ...
I am the LORD; that is My name;
 My glory I give to no other,
 nor My praise to carved idols.”

SONGS OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy!

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see.
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Words by Reginald Heber (1783-1826). Music by John B. Dykes (1861).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Only You

**You have known my every situation,
and Your goodness sustains me, Lord;
I will bow in humble expectation
of Your presence in the storm.**

**Yes, there will be trial and tribulation,
and You'll grant me breath to persevere.
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,
of the day You'll dry these tears.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,
yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.
All these things too wonderful to speak of,
fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

***Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,
You expose the evils of the night.
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,
Only You are clothed in light.***

**Here I am in the valley of decision,
I know You hear me when I call,
I repent of my prideful disposition;
where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall
© 2014 Scot Family Reunion Songs (Admin. by Scot Family Reunion, LLC)

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 30:8-24

⁸ "And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him. ⁹ But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

¹⁰ "Then fear not, O Jacob My servant, declares the LORD, nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid.

¹¹ For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.

¹² "For thus says the LORD:
Your hurt is incurable,
and your wound is grievous.

¹³ There is none to uphold your cause,
no medicine for your wound,
no healing for you.

¹⁴ All your lovers have forgotten you;
they care nothing for you;
for I have dealt you the blow of an enemy,
the punishment of a merciless foe,
because your guilt is great,
because your sins are flagrant.

¹⁵ Why do you cry out over your hurt?
Your pain is incurable.
Because your guilt is great,
because your sins are flagrant,
I have done these things to you.

¹⁶ Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured,
and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into captivity;
those who plunder you shall be plundered,
and all who prey on you I will make a prey.

- 17 For I will restore health to you,
and your wounds I will heal,
declares the LORD,
because they have called you an outcast:
‘It is Zion, for whom no one cares!’
- 18 Thus says the LORD:
Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob
and have compassion on his dwellings;
the city shall be rebuilt on its mound,
and the palace shall stand where it used to be.
- 19 Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving,
and the voices of those who celebrate.
I will multiply them, and they shall not be few;
I will make them honored, and they shall not be small.
- 20 Their children shall be as they were of old,
and their congregation shall be established before Me,
and I will punish all who oppress them.
- 21 Their prince shall be one of themselves;
their ruler shall come out from their midst;
I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me,
for who would dare of himself to approach me?
declares the LORD.
- 22 And you shall be My people,
and I will be your God.”
- 23 Behold the storm of the LORD!
Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.
- 24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back
until He has executed and accomplished
the intentions of His mind.
In the latter days you will understand this.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Heavenly Father, we have sinned.

**Both consciously and unconsciously,
we have thought, spoken, and done
what we should not have.**

**And we have *not* thought, spoken, and done
what You have called us to do and be as Your people.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Grant us the grace to never be content with ourselves
and to always grieve and turn from our sin.**

**Give us the strength by Your Spirit
to kill our pride and envy,
to command our tongues to speak words of life,
and to trample down our selfishness.**

**May we live for You and not for ourselves,
may we be transformed into Your likeness,
be set apart for Your service,
and live entirely for Your glory.
In the name of Jesus we plead, 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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Titus 3:5-7

M: He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness,
but according to His own mercy,
by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,
whom He poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that being justified by His grace
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, Thank You

**The myst'ry of the cross I cannot comprehend,
The agonies of Calvary.
You the perfect, Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me.**

***Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.***

***The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.***

***Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.***

**By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near;
Your enemy You've made Your friend.
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace,
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.**

***Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.
The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.***

Words and music by Pat Sczebel
© 2003 Integrity's Hosanna Music, Sovereign Grace Worship

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

Matthew 6:5–13

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. ⁹Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,
¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”

GIVING TO THE LORD

from Nehemiah 10

We also assume responsibility for bringing
to the house of the LORD each year
the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree...
We will not neglect the house of our God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that Thou art —
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905),
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)
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

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.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

Jesus, Strong and Kind

**Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful,
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.***

**Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful,
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.***

**Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful,
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.***

Words and music by
Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Colin Buchanan.
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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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The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version.**

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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