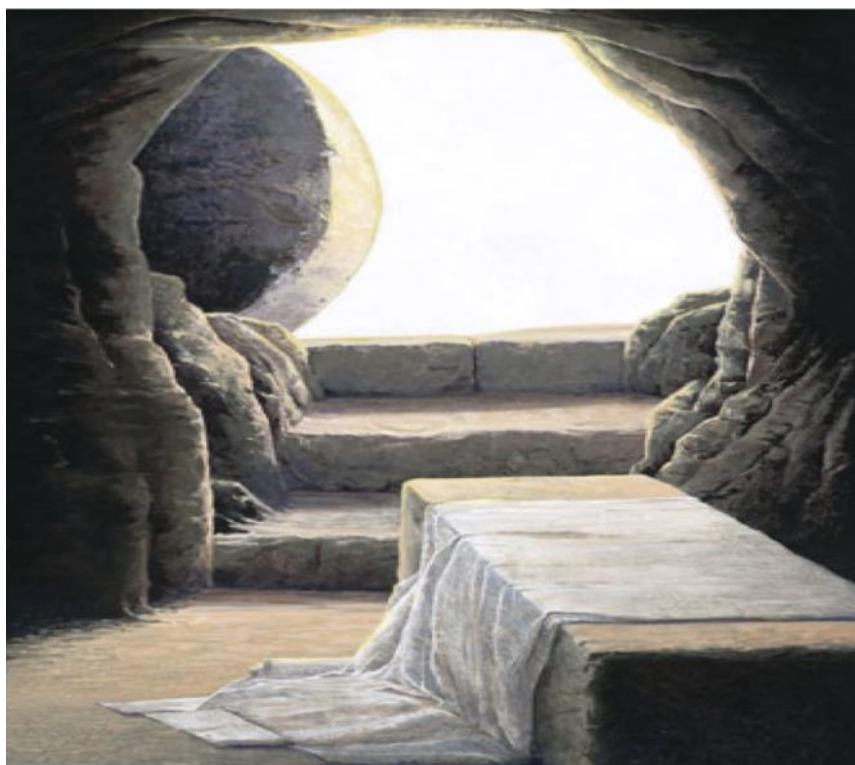




Ascension PCA

**Resurrection Sunday
April 9, 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

*Lord, open our eyes every day more and more
to see and consider Your great and marvelous love to us,
that our hearts may be drawn yet nearer to You —
even more to love You, fear You, and obey You.*

*Lord, increase in us that true faith that allows us
to lay sure hold on Your Son, and rest on His merits.*

*Let us feel the power of Your Son's death
killing sin in our mortal bodies,
and the power of His resurrection
raising us up to new life.*

~ Arthur Dent

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

M: He is the Alpha and Omega.
The Almighty.
The Angel of the LORD.
The Captain of the LORD's host.
The Good Shepherd.
The Branch.
The Last Adam.
The Vine.
The Chief Cornerstone.
The Way.
The Truth.
The Resurrection.
The Life.

**P: God exalted Him to the highest place
and gave Him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

M: Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**"Christ the Lord is ris'n today,"
Sons of men and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.**

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell:
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**

***Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!***

***Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!***

Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died, our souls to save;
Where thy victory, O grave?

Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led,
Foll'wing our exalted Head;
Made like Him, like Him we rise:
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Words by Charles Wesley (1739). Music from *Lyra Davidica* (1708; alt.)
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 and Kristyn Getty.
© 2002 Thankyou Music

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Psalms 53

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity;
there is none who does good.
- 2 God looks down from heaven
on the children of man
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.
- 3 They have all fallen away;
together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.
- 4 Have those who work evil no knowledge,
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon God?
- 5 There they are, in great terror,
where there is no terror!
For God scatters the bones of him who encamps against you;
you put them to shame, for God has rejected them.
- 6 Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When God restores the fortunes of His people,
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Almighty God,
Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
We acknowledge that we are unworthy
of Your redeeming grace.
We have not believed Your promises
nor trusted in our living Lord.
We have forgotten the glad tidings
of His victory over death,
and have not known the things that belong to our peace.
Forgive us, we pray,
and restore unto us the joy of Your salvation.
For Jesus Christ's sake,
our only Mediator and Advocate.
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

from Romans 4:24-25

God accounts all sinners who confess the Name of Christ
and believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead
as sinless. He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.

In Him our sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Come, Ye Sinners

**Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,
full of pity joined with pow'r.
He is able, He is able;
He is willing, doubt no more.**

**Come, ye needy, come and welcome;
God's free bounty glorify:
True belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money
come to Jesus Christ and buy.**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
bruised and broken by the fall.
If you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous;
sinners Jesus came to call.
Not the righteous, not the righteous;
sinners Jesus came to call.**

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); adapted by Matthew Smith.

Music by Matthew Smith (2000).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2000 detuned radio 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

1 Corinthians 15:1–8 and Philippians 3:7–11

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

⁴ that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me.

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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

“The Power of the Resurrection” *Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

SONG OF RESPONSE

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Andrew Eck

Do you believe the Bible is God's Word
and is to be believed and obeyed?

Do you acknowledge that you are a sinner
and in need of God's grace and mercy?

Do you accept Jesus as your Lord
and only hope for salvation?

Do you now promise, by the Holy Spirit
and with the strength God gives,
to live as a follower of Jesus?

Will you now pray for and serve this church,
give to God's work when you are able,
and submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

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 Apostles' Creed & Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 45

**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.**

M: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

**P : First, by His resurrection He has overcome death,
so that He might make us share in the righteousness
He won for us by His death.
Second, by His power we too
are already now resurrected to a new life.
Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee
of our glorious resurrection.**

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

Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed

**Alas, and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
for such a worm as I?**

**Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
and love beyond degree!**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
so pure and undefiled,
to make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

**Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut His glories in,
when Christ, the mighty Maker, died,
for man, the creature's, sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face
while His dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt my eyes to tears.**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
so pure and undefiled,
to make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

Words by Isaac Watts (1707);
additional words and music by Bob Kauflin (1997).
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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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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
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to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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