



Ascension PCA

April 23, 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

*Grant that I may hear Your voice in the morning,
for my hope is in You.*

*Show me the way in which I should walk,
for I lift my soul to You.*

*Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,
for I have fled to You.*

*Teach me to do Your will,
for You are my God.*

Let Your good Spirit lead me in the right way. Amen.

~ John Calvin

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

Romans 11:33-36

M: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable His judgments,
and His paths beyond tracing out!
“Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been His counselor?
Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?”

**P: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever! Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render, O help us to see
’Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

Words by Walter Chambers Smith (1867)).
Traditional Welsh hymn melody.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

There is a Higher Throne

**There is a higher throne
than all this world has known;
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.**

**Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace.
Salvation comes.**

Hear heaven's voices sing.

*Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

**And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song
where we belong.**

**He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die;
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.**

Hear heaven's voices sing.

*Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

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 31:31–40

Elder Philip Suh

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

³⁵ Thus says the LORD,
who gives the sun for light by day
and the fixed order of the moon and the stars
for light by night,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—
the LORD of hosts is His name:

³⁶ “If this fixed order departs
from before Me, declares the LORD,
then shall the offspring of Israel cease
from being a nation before Me forever.”

³⁷ Thus says the LORD:
“If the heavens above can be measured,
and the foundations of the earth below can be explored,
then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel
for all that they have done,
declares the LORD.”

³⁸ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. ³⁹ And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah. ⁴⁰ The whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be sacred to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: O Merciful Father,

**For our redemption You gave Your only begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by His glorious resurrection
You delivered us from the power of our enemy.**

**Therefore, forgive us our sins —
the sins we are aware of, and those we aren't.**

**Grant us Your grace and Spirit,
that we might die daily from sin,
that we may evermore live with Him
in the joys of His resurrection,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

1 John 4:10

This is love: not that we loved God,
but that He loved us
and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

My Redeemer

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.***

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)

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.

⁶ But 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. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. ⁹ Pray 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.”

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

“Forgiven and Forgiving”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

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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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

**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.**

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

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

**Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ He lives! Christ He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with Him.

**There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

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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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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)

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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