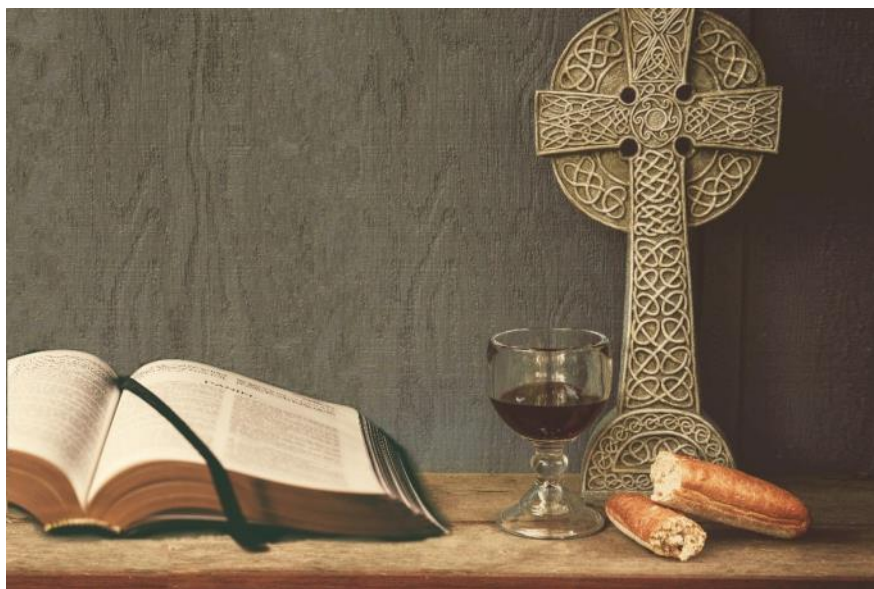




# Ascension PCA

May 14, 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

*Never at stake, never at risk, never up for grabs,  
never failing, ever-present, ever-giving,  
infinite, inexhaustible, tireless, faithful, dependable,  
trustworthy, providing, protecting, guiding,  
transforming, rescuing, delivering, powerful,  
wise, loving, patient, comforting, confronting,  
correcting, tender, kind, gentle, never impatient,  
never disgusted, never irritated, never condemning,  
always forgiving, always reconciling, always restoring,  
redeeming, **saving grace.***

~ Paul Tripp

# 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

*Psalm 36:5-10*

**P: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,  
Your faithfulness to the clouds.  
Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;  
Your judgments are like the great deep;  
man and beast You save, O LORD.**

**M:** How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!  
The children of mankind take refuge  
in the shadow of Your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of Your house,  
and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.  
For with You is the fountain of life;  
in Your light do we see light.

**P: Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You,  
and Your righteousness to the upright of heart!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Tell Out, My Soul*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers, dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore!**

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961). Music by Holly Dutton (2001).  
Words: ©1961 Hope Publishing Company. Music: ©2001 Dutton, Holly

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758). Music by John Wyeth (1813).  
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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Jeremiah 32:36–44*

*Elder Brett Chase*

<sup>36</sup> “Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence’: <sup>37</sup> Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in My anger and My wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. <sup>38</sup> And they shall be My people, and I will be their God. <sup>39</sup> I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. <sup>40</sup> I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of Me in their hearts, that they may not turn from Me. <sup>41</sup> I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all My heart and all My soul.

<sup>42</sup> For thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them. <sup>43</sup> Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, ‘It is a desolation, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’ <sup>44</sup> Fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD.”

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Father, forgive our unbelief.**

**Jesus, thank You for Your fearless faith.**

**Thank You that for the joy that was set before You,  
You persevered through far greater pain and suffering  
than anything we can even imagine.**

**Thank You that You will come back and take us  
to be with You forever,  
wiping away all our tears  
and comforting at last our grieving and broken hearts.**

**Holy Spirit, help us to believe in Christ.**

**Help us to believe that in His death we died,  
and that in His resurrection we are raised to new life.**

**Give us the joy and peace that should flow  
from that reality,  
as we continue to face the broken world  
in which we live,  
especially as we face the last enemy, death itself.**

**Help us to live in the light of our full forgiveness,  
to share joyfully in His sufferings,  
and to die with great confidence  
in the sufficiency of Your grace to us in Jesus Christ.**

**In His name, we pray, 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

*Hebrews 12:2*

[Let us look] to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,  
despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand  
of the throne of God.

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

## *How Firm a Foundation*

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed,  
for I am your God, and will still give you aid.  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”**

**“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”**

Words from *Rippon’s Selection of Hymns* (1787; alt.; mod.)  
Traditional American melody;  
J. Funk’s *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music* (1832)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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 10:14 – 11:1*

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak as  
to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup> The cup  
of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood  
of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in



the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

<sup>18</sup> Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? <sup>19</sup> What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? <sup>20</sup> No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. <sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. <sup>22</sup> Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

<sup>23</sup> "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful.

"All things are lawful," but not all things build up.

<sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. <sup>25</sup> Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. <sup>26</sup> For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." <sup>27</sup> If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. <sup>28</sup> But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience — <sup>29</sup> I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? <sup>30</sup> If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

<sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup> just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

<sup>1</sup> Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## 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

*"Freedoms Serve"*

*Elder Philip Suh*

## PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# GIVING TO THE LORD

*James 1:17*

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of lights  
with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

# SONG OF RESPONSE

*Lord, for Your Glory*

**Lord, for Your glory we sing Your praises.  
We magnify Your holy name.  
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing.  
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are for the glory of You.***

**Almighty Father, we are Your children.  
You have been faithful to Your own.  
Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen.  
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,  
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann,  
Grant Cunningham (1998)

© 1998 New Spring, Matt Huesmann Music, Imagine This Music, River Oaks Music Company

# GOD 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

*Pastor Ed Volz*

## 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. Amen.**

## 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

*Take My Life and Let it Be*

**Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for Thee,  
swift and beautiful for Thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from Thee,  
filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for Thee,  
ever, only, all for Thee.**

Words by Frances R. Havergal (1874)  
Music by Henri A. César Malan (1827)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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

***Ascension Presbyterian Church***

and that any automatic payments are being sent  
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.

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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

**Meeting Address:** 8224 220<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

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