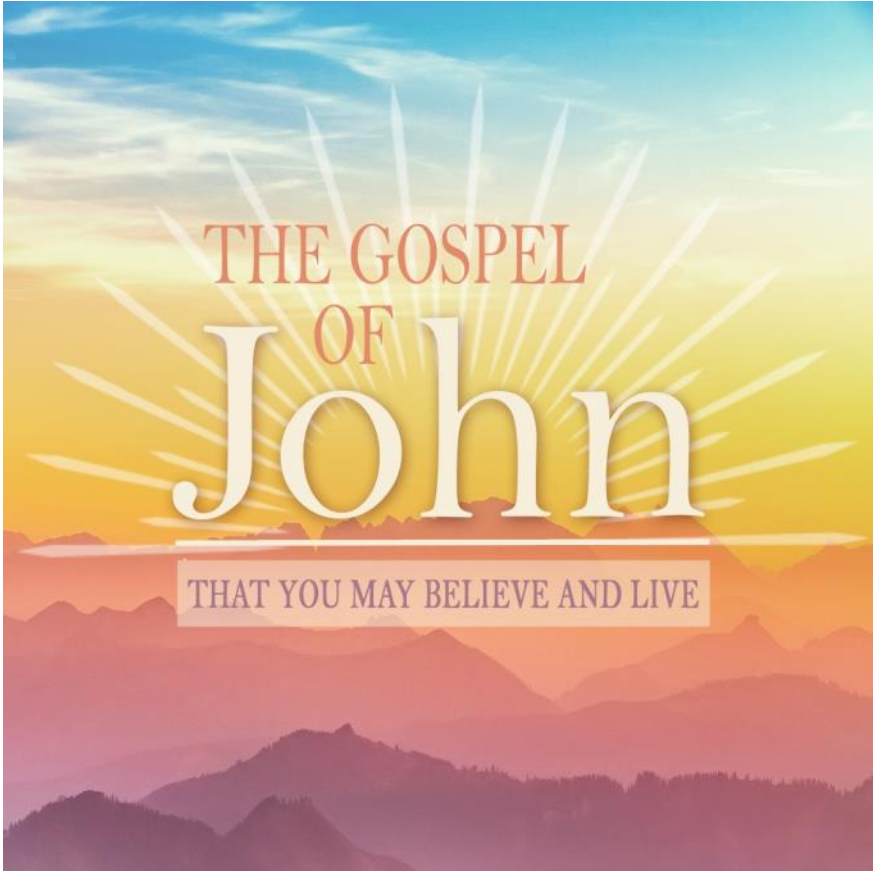




**Ascension** PCA

**June 25, 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 Jesus, O, the wonder of this Good News...  
We cannot hear it too much, believe it too deeply,  
or rejoice in it too fully.*

*By Your death on the cross, You have taken away our sins,  
**once and for all.***

*Nothing is left undone;  
nothing more needs to happen;  
nothing else could've met our need.*

*It's not: You did your part, now we must do our part.*

*It's: You did your part; now let us trust in your part.*

*Even as we rest in Your finished work,  
so we rejoice in Your present reign, Lord Jesus.*

*Atoned-for-sin will be abolished sin;  
already-defeated evil will be eradicated evil;  
vanquished enemies will be eliminated enemies.*

*May the joy of this good news buckle our knees in humble adoration,  
and empower our hands for neighbor love.*

~ Scotty Smith

# 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

*Hebrews 12:22–24, 28–29*

M: You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

**P: Therefore let us be grateful  
for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,  
and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship,  
with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.**

### 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

*Across the Lands*

**You're the Word of God the Father  
from before the world began;  
Every star and every planet  
has been fashioned by Your hand.  
All creation holds together  
by the power of Your voice.  
Let the skies declare Your glory;  
let the land and seas rejoice!**

***You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,  
came to seek and save the lost,  
and exchanged the joy of heaven  
for the anguish of a cross.  
With a prayer You fed the hungry,  
with a word You calmed the sea.  
Yet how silently You suffered,  
that the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

**With a shout You rose victorious,  
wresting vict'ry from the grave,  
and ascended into heaven,  
leading captives in Your way.  
Now You stand before the Father,  
interceding for Your own.  
From each tribe and tongue and nation  
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.  
You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
© 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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Psalms 44*

*Elder Philip Suh*

- 1 O God, we have heard with our ears,  
our fathers have told us,  
what deeds You performed in their days,  
in the days of old:
- 2 You with Your own hand drove out the nations,  
but them You planted;  
You afflicted the peoples,  
but them You set free;
- 3 for not by their own sword did they win the land,  
nor did their own arm save them,  
but Your right hand and Your arm,  
and the light of Your face,  
for You delighted in them.
- 4 You are my King, O God;  
ordain salvation for Jacob!
- 5 Through You we push down our foes;  
through Your name we tread down  
those who rise up against us.
- 6 For not in my bow do I trust,  
nor can my sword save me.
- 7 But You have saved us from our foes  
and have put to shame those who hate us.
- 8 In God we have boasted continually,  
and we will give thanks to Your name forever.
- 9 But You have rejected us and disgraced us  
and have not gone out with our armies.
- 10 You have made us turn back from the foe,  
and those who hate us have gotten spoil.
- 11 You have made us like sheep for slaughter  
and have scattered us among the nations.
- 12 You have sold Your people for a trifle,  
demanding no high price for them.
- 13 You have made us the taunt of our neighbors,  
the derision and scorn of those around us.
- 14 You have made us a byword among the nations,  
a laughingstock among the peoples.

*Selah*

15 All day long my disgrace is before me,  
and shame has covered my face  
16 at the sound of the taunter and reviler,  
at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.  
17 All this has come upon us,  
though we have not forgotten You,  
and we have not been false to Your covenant.  
18 Our heart has not turned back,  
nor have our steps departed from Your way;  
19 yet You have broken us in the place of jackals  
and covered us with the shadow of death.  
20 If we had forgotten the name of our God  
or spread out our hands to a foreign god,  
21 would not God discover this?  
For He knows the secrets of the heart.  
22 Yet for Your sake we are killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.  
23 Awake! Why are You sleeping, O LORD?  
Rouse Yourself! Do not reject us forever!  
24 Why do You hide Your face?  
Why do You forget our affliction and oppression?  
25 For our soul is bowed down to the dust;  
our belly clings to the ground.  
26 Rise up; come to our help!  
Redeem us for the sake of Your steadfast love!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Lord, You come to us, but we do not recognize You;  
You call, but we do not follow;  
You command, but we do not obey;  
You bless us, but we do not thank You.**

***Please forgive and help us.***

**Lord, You accept us, but we do not accept others;  
You forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us;  
You love us, but we do not love our neighbors.**

***Please forgive and help us.***

**Lord, You taught us to pray "Your kingdom come,"  
but we are too busy building a kingdom of our own;  
You identified yourself with outcasts, the needy,  
and the poor, but we are too busy for others;  
You suffered and died for the sake of all,  
but we are so often preoccupied with ourselves.**

***Please forgive and help us.***

**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 Peter 2:10*

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

## SONGS OF ASSURANCE

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

**And can it be that I should gain  
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me?**

***Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**He left His Father's throne above,  
so free, so infinite His grace.  
Humbled Himself, so great His love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me.**

***Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

***Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

***Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN



## *All I Have Is Christ*

**I once was lost in darkest night,  
yet thought I knew the way;  
the sin that promised joy and life  
had led me to the grave.**

**I had no hope that You would own,  
a rebel to Your will,  
and if You had not loved me first,  
I would refuse You still.**

**But as I ran my hell-bound race,  
indifferent to the cost,  
You looked upon my helpless state  
and led me to the cross.**

**And I beheld God's love displayed,  
You suffered in my place,  
You bore the wrath reserved for me,  
now all I know is grace!**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

**Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone,  
and live so all might see  
the strength to follow Your commands  
could never come from me.**

**Oh Father use my ransomed life  
in any way You choose,  
and let my song forever be:  
my only boast is You.**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!  
Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin  
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## **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

*John 2:12–25*

<sup>12</sup> After this He went down to Capernaum, with His mother and His brothers and His disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup> And making a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And He poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

<sup>16</sup> And He told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make My Father's house a house of trade."

<sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume Me."

<sup>18</sup> So the Jews said to Him, "What sign do You show us for doing these things?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But He was speaking about the temple of His body. <sup>22</sup> When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

<sup>23</sup> Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs that He was doing.

<sup>24</sup> But Jesus on His part did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew all people <sup>25</sup> and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He himself knew what was in man.

## 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 Lamb is a Lion"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER



## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Proverbs 3:5,9*

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding...  
honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*The Church's One Foundation*

**The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is His new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her,  
and for her life He died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won;  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with Thee.**

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866). Music by Samuel S. Wesley (1864).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

# 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

### 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

*Jesus, I Come*

**Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of my sickness into Thy health,  
out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,  
out of my sin and into Thyself,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into the glorious gain of Thy cross,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,  
out of life's storms and into Thy calm,  
out of distress into jubilant psalm,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of unrest and arrogant pride,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into Thy blessed will to abide,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,  
out of despair into raptures above,  
upward forever on wings like a dove,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into the joy and light of Thy home,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,  
ever Thy glorious face to behold,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

Words by William True Sleeper (1887). Music by Greg Thompson (2000).  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2000 Greg Thompson Music

## 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)

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