



Ascension PCA

July 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

*“God loves the church with a love too deep
for human imagination...*

*You may fear that the Lord has passed you by,
but it is not so:*

*He who counts the stars, and calls them by their names,
is in no danger of forgetting His own children.*

*He knows your case as thoroughly as if
you were the only creature He ever made,
or the only saint He ever loved.*

Approach Him and be at peace.”

~ Charles Spurgeon

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

from Psalm 27

**P: One thing we ask of the LORD,
this is what we seek:
that we may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of our lives,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek Him in His temple.**

**For in the day of trouble
He will keep us safe in His dwelling;
He will hide us in the shelter of His tabernacle
and set us high upon a rock.**

**Then our heads will be exalted
above the enemies who surround us;
at His tabernacle will we sacrifice with shouts of joy;
We will sing and make music to the LORD.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**The Lord ye know is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Psalm 100. Words by William Kethe (1561).
Music by Louis Bourgeois' *Genevan Psalter* (1551).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Behold Our God

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore ...

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

Words and music by

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)

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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 45

Elder Brett Chase

- 1 My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
- 2 You are the most handsome of the sons of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.
- 3 Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your splendor and majesty!
- 4 In your majesty ride out victoriously
for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;
let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!
- 5 Your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.
- 6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- 8 Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
- 10 Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear:
forget your people and your father's house,
and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him.
- 12 The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,
the richest of the people.
- 13 All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes
interwoven with gold.
- 14 In many-colored robes she is led to the king,
with her virgin companions following behind her.
- 15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
- 16 In place of your fathers shall be your sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.
- 17 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from The Valley of Vision

**P: Lord Jesus, give me a deeper repentance,
a horror of sin, a dread of its approach;
Help me to flee it,
and jealously to resolve
that my heart shall be Yours alone.**

**Give me a deeper trust,
that I may lose myself to find myself in You,
the ground of my rest, the spring of my being.**

**Give me a deeper knowledge of Yourself
as Savior, Master, Lord, and King.**

**Give me deeper power in private prayer,
more sweetness in Your Word,
more steadfast grip on its truth.**

**Give me deeper holiness
in speech, thought, action,
and let me not seek moral virtue apart from You.**

**Plough deep in me, great Lord,
that my being may be a tilled field,
the roots of grace spreading far and wide,
until You alone are seen in me. 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

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Come, Ye Sinners

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
is to feel your need of Him.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); alt. Music by Jonathan Eck (2023).
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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Mark 10:17–32

¹⁷ And as He was setting out on His journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the

commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ And he said to Him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³ And Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

²⁸ Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left everything and followed You." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for My sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

³² And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, He began to tell them what was to happen to Him.

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

"Only Gain"

Reverend Austin Clement

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moths and rust destroy,
and where thieves break in and steal.
But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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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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

Titus 3:3-7

**P: At one time we too were foolish,
disobedient, deceived and enslaved
by all kinds of passions and pleasures.
We lived in malice and envy,
being hated and hating one another.
But when the kindness and love
of God our Savior appeared,
He saved us,
not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of His mercy.
He saved us through the washing of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom He poured out on us generously
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by His grace,
we might become heirs
having the hope of eternal life.**

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

As A Beggar I Come To Thee

**As a beggar, I come to Thee.
As a beggar, I come to Thee.
With empty hands, without one plea.
As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**At Thy table I find a feast.
At Thy table I find a feast.
Here come the poor, the lame, the least.
At Thy table I find a feast.**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?
Precious Savior, how can it be?
Thine own dear blood was shed for me!
Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.
Long I to see Thy kingdom come.
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!
With lifted hearts our prayer is sung:
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!
With lifted hearts our prayer is sung:
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

Music and words by Luke Morton (2012).
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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

Ascension Presbyterian Church

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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