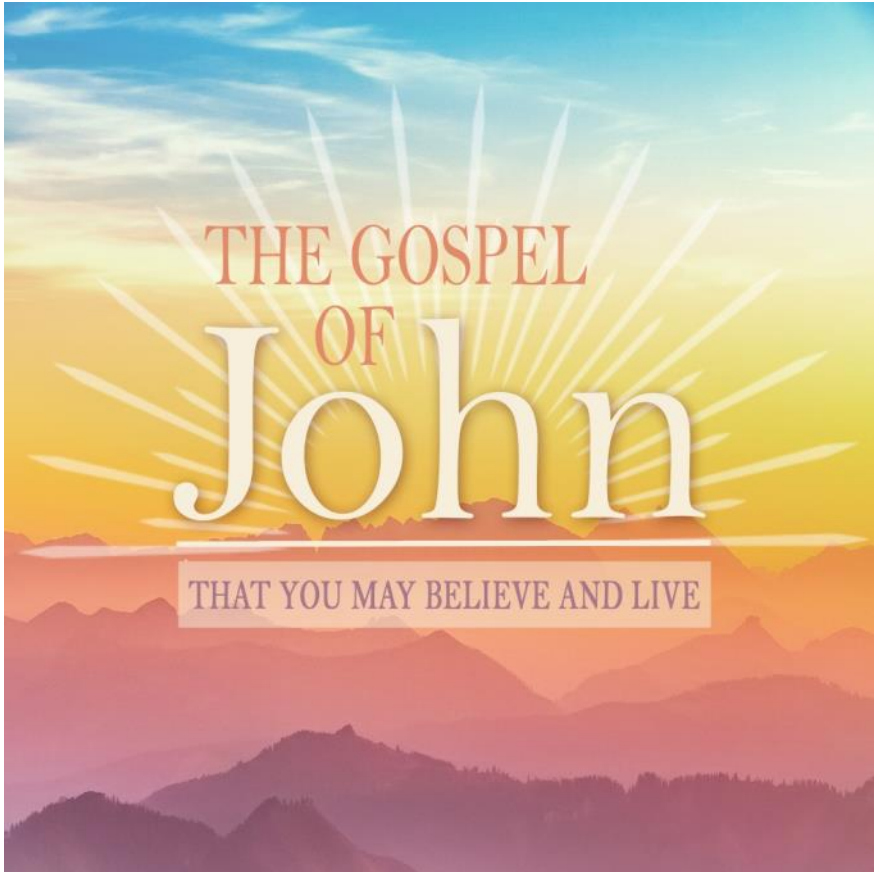




Ascension PCA

August 13, 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

"O God, I have tasted Thy goodness
and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more.

I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace.

I am ashamed of my lack of desire.

O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee;

I long to be filled with longing;

I thirst to be made more thirsty still.

Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed.

Begin in mercy a new work of love within me.

Say to my soul, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away."

Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee

up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long."

~ A.W. Tozer

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 100

M: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, He is God!
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

**P: For the LORD is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 89

**Lord, the heavens praise Your wonders,
angels sing Your faithfulness.
For none matches God in heaven,
who's like God in heaven's throng?
God is feared among the angels,
He's more awesome than they all.
Lord, O God of hosts, who's like You?
Mighty God, You're bound with truth.**

**You rule o'er the sea's proud surging;
when its waves rise, bid them still.
You rule nations, they do Your bidding;
Your strong arm disperses foes.**

**Yours the heavens, earth's bounds also;
You have founded all the world.
North and south You have created;
all creation sings Your praise.**

**You've an arm that's great in power;
Your strong hand is all supreme.
Your rule's based on right and justice,
cov'nant love and truth are Yours.**

**They are happy who acclaim You;
in Your favor, Lord, they walk.
In Your Name rejoicing ever;
in Your righteousness raised high.**

Words from *The Trinity Psalter*. Music by Asahel Nettleton (1825).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 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

Psalm 50

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.
- 3 Our God comes; He does not keep silence;
before Him is a devouring fire,
around Him a mighty tempest.
- 4 He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that He may judge His people:
- 5 "Gather to Me My faithful ones,
who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!"
- 6 The heavens declare His righteousness,
for God Himself is judge!
- 7 "Hear, O My people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.
- 8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
- 9 I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.
- 10 For every beast of the forest is Mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.
- 11 I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is Mine.
- 12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are Mine.
- 13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

Selah

14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,
15 and call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”
16 But to the wicked God says:
“What right have you to recite My statutes
or take My covenant on your lips?
17 For you hate discipline,
and you cast My words behind you.
18 If you see a thief, you are pleased with him,
and you keep company with adulterers.
19 “You give your mouth free rein for evil,
and your tongue frames deceit.
20 You sit and speak against your brother;
you slander your own mother’s son.
21 These things you have done, and I have been silent;
you thought that I was one like yourself.
But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.
22 “Mark this, then, you who forget God,
lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!
23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me;
to one who orders his way rightly
I will show the salvation of God!”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Forgive us our sins, O Lord.

**Forgive us,
the sins of our youth and the sins of our age,
the sins of our soul and the sins of our body,
our secret and our whispering sins,
our presumptuous and our careless sins,
the sins we have done to please ourselves,
and the sins we have done to please others.**

**Forgive us the sins that we know,
and the sins that we know not;
forgive them, O Lord,
forgive them all because of Your great goodness.
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.

THE GOOD NEWS

Isaiah 55:1 & Matthew 11:28

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price... Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Living Waters

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
rest beside these living waters.**

**Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.**

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.*

**Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters.
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.**

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.*

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless.
Christ, He is our living waters.**

***There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.***

Words and music by Ed Cash and Kristyn Getty.
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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 4:27–42

²⁷ Just then His disciples came back. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" ²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to Him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."
³² But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."
³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. ³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”

⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of His word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

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 Joy of Harvest”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

O Mighty One, You have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is Your Name. Bless all we offer You —
ourselves, our time, and our possessions —
that through us Your grace and favor may be known to all the
world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE

O Come, All You Unfaithful

**O come, all you unfaithful.
Come, weak and unstable.
Come, know you are not alone.**

**O come, barren and waiting ones,
Weary of praying. Come,
See what your God has done.**

*Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.*

**O come, bitter and broken.
Come, with fears unspoken.
Come, taste of His perfect love.**

**O come, guilty and hiding ones,
There is no need to run.
See what your God has done.**

*Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.*

*He's the Lamb who was given,
slain for our pardon.*

*His promise is peace
for those who believe.*

*He's the Lamb who was given,
slain for our pardon.*

*His promise is peace
for those who believe.*

**So come, though you have nothing.
Come, He is the offering.
Come, see what your God has done.**

***Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.***

***Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.***

Words and music by Lisa Clow and Bob Kauflin (2020).
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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

Isaiah 25:1,6–9

P: O LORD, You are my God;

**I will exalt You; I will praise Your name,
for You have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

**On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.**

**And He will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.**

**He will swallow up death forever;
and the LORD GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of His people He will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.**

It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God;

we have waited for Him, that He might save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;

let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forever more be Thine.**

*Words from *Münster Gesangbuch* (1677); tr. by Joseph Seiss (1873).
Music from *Shlesische Volkslieder* (1842).
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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Scripture text from

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Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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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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