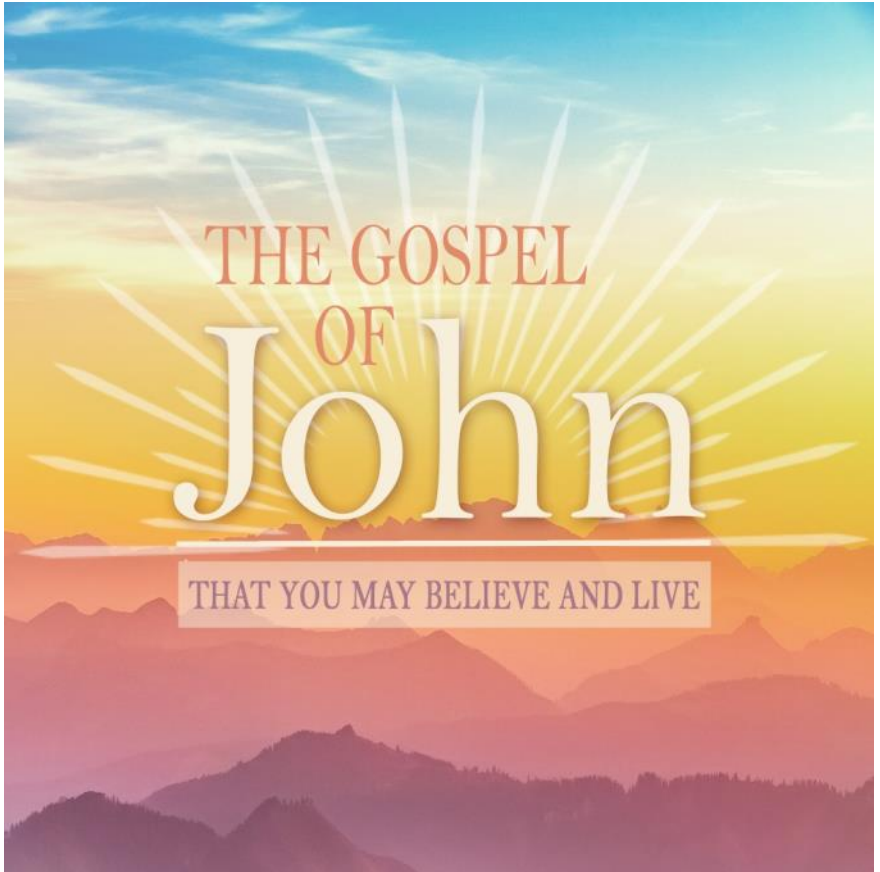




Ascension PCA

August 20, 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

Your house is mine, but I am unworthy to meet You here, and am unfit for spiritual service.

When I enter this place, I come before You as a sinner, condemned by conscience and Your Word, for I am still in the body and in the wilderness, ignorant, weak, in danger, and in need of Your aid.

But encouraged by Your all-sufficient grace, let me come to Your house with a lively hope of meeting You, knowing that here You come to me and give me peace.

My soul is drawn out to You in longing desires for Your presence in the sanctuary, at the table, where all are entertained on a feast of good things.

~ from *The Valley of Vision*

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 Ephesians 1

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world
to be holy and blameless in His sight.
In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons
through Jesus Christ,
in accordance with His pleasure and will —
to the praise of His glorious grace
which He has freely given us in the One He loves.

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, unchanging, 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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;
behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.**

**No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.**

**His reign shall know no end;
and round His piercéd feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851) Music by George Job Elvey (1868).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, Holy One

**Hasten now, O loving Lord to us ...
we're thirsty.**

**Fill these souls, Spirit, every hour ...
we need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on, the perfect path O Lord,
and may we ...**

**... sin no more, this spotless bride, the Church,
is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory ... Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory ... Lord Jesus.***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.
© 2016 Scot Family Reunion Songs (BMI)

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 51

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against You, You only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight,
so that You may be justified in Your words
and blameless in Your judgment.
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
6 Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,
and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that You have broken rejoice.
9 Hide Your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
and sinners will return to You.
14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.
15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare Your praise.
16 For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.
18 Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
19 then will You delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Our Father in Heaven, if Your mercy had bounds,
where would our refuge from just wrath be?**

But Your love in Christ is without measure.

**Therefore, we present ourselves to You
with sins of omission and commission,
against You, our Father,
against You, adorable Redeemer,
against You and Your strivings, Holy Spirit,
against the dictates of our consciences,
against the precepts of Your Word,
against our neighbors and ourselves.**

**Enter not into judgment with us,
for we plead no righteousness of our own,
but bless You that the finished work of Jesus
needs no addition from our doings,
and is satisfaction for all our sins.**

In that name we plead, 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

Ephesians 1:7-8 & Isaiah 12:1-2

**M: In Christ we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of sins,
in accordance with the riches of God's grace
that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.**

**P: We will praise you, O Lord.
Although You were angry with us,
Your anger has turned away and You have comforted us.
Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and not be afraid.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!**

**And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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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 4:43–54

⁴³ After the two days He departed for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (For Jesus Himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in His own hometown.)

⁴⁵ So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed Him, having seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

⁴⁶ So He came again to Cana in Galilee, where He had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Him and asked Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."

⁴⁹ The official said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did when He had come from Judea to Galilee.

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.**

GIVING TO THE LORD

Proverbs 11:28

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Depth of Mercy

**Depth of mercy! Can there be,
mercy reaching even me?
God, the Just, His wrath forbears,
me the chief of sinners, spares.
So many times my heart has strayed
from His kind and perfect ways;
Making clear my desp'rate need
for His blood —
poured out for me.**

**Give me grace, Lord, let me own
all the wrongs that I have done.
Let me now my sins deplore,
look to You and sin no more.
There, for me, the Savior stands
holding forth His wounded hands,
Scars which ever cry for me;
Once condemned ...
but now set free.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707–1788). Music by Bob Kauflin (1997).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 1997 Sovereign Grace Praise

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

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 60 & 61

M: How are you right with God?

P: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.

**Even though my conscience accuses me
of having grievously sinned
against all God's commandments
and of never having kept any of them,
and even though I am still inclined toward all evil,
nevertheless, without my deserving it at all,
out of sheer grace,
God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction,
righteousness, and holiness of Christ,
as if I had never sinned not been a sinner,
as if I had been as perfectly obedient
as Christ was obedient to me.**

**All I need to do is to accept this gift of God
with a believing heart.**

M: Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God?

**P: It is not because of any value my faith has
that God is pleased with me.**

**Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness
make me right with God.**

**And I can receive this righteousness and make it mine
in no other way than by faith alone.**

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.*

PRAYER | MEDITATION

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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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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