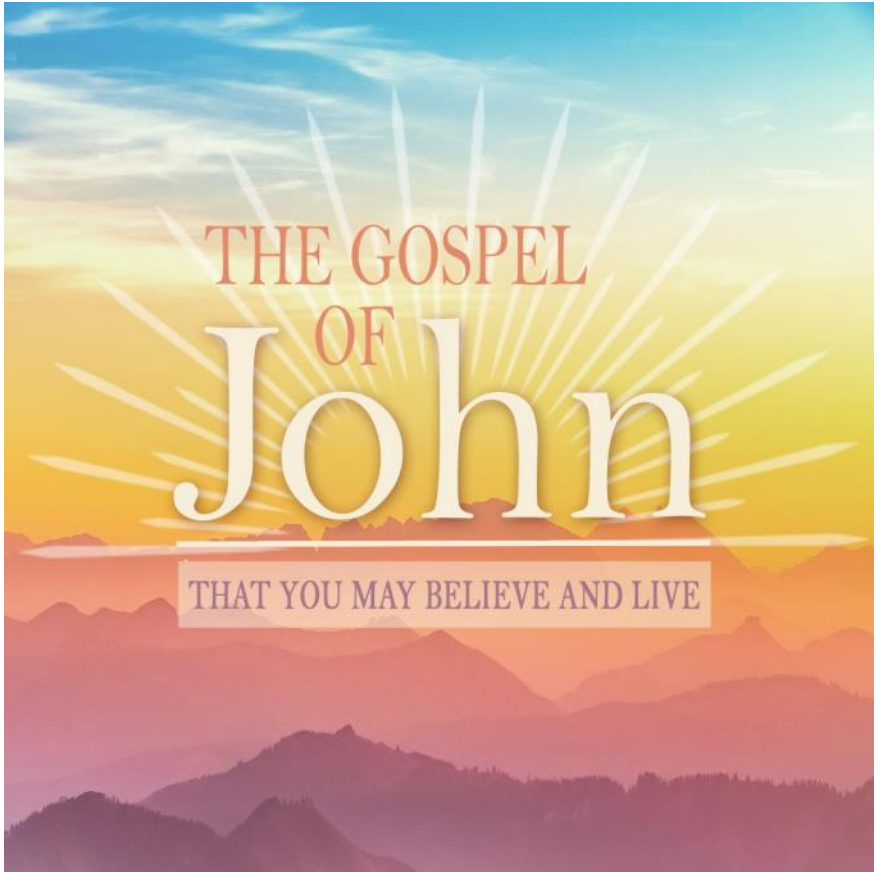




**Ascension** PCA

**October 1, 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

*The world is very evil, the times are waxing late;  
Be sober and keep vigil, the Judge is at the gate.  
The Judge that comes in mercy, the Judge that comes with might,  
To terminate the evil, to diadem the right.  
When the just and gentle Monarch shall summon from the tomb,  
Let man, the guilty tremble, for Man, the God shall doom!  
Arise, arise, good Christian, let right to wrong succeed;  
Let penitential sorrow to heavenly gladness lead.  
To the light that hath no evening, that knows nor moon nor sun,  
The light so new and golden, the light that is but one.*

~ Bernard of Cluny

# 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!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Romans 11:33–36*

- M: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom  
and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable His judgments,  
and His paths beyond tracing out!  
Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been His counselor?  
Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?
- P: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.  
To Him be the glory forever! Amen.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*O Worship the King*

**O worship the King, all glorious above,  
and gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love!  
While angels delight to worship above.  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words by Robert Grant (1833)

Music by Johann M. Haydn (1737–1806), arr. William Gardiner (1815)

PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Is He Worthy?*

**Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop  
the light from getting through? (We do)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)**

**Is all creation groaning? (It is)  
Is a new creation coming? (It is)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be  
the light within our midst? (It is)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? He is!***

**Does the Father truly love us? (He does)  
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah,  
hold forever those He loves? (He does)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.***

***From ev'ry people and tribe,  
every nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God  
to reign with the Son.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy, is He worthy,  
is He worthy of this? He is!***

***Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is!***

# 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 57*

*Elder Philip Suh*

*To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy.  
A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.*

- 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,  
for in You my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge,  
till the storms of destruction pass by.
- 2 I cry out to God Most High,  
to God who fulfills His purpose for me.
- 3 He will send from heaven and save me;  
He will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah*  
God will send out His steadfast love and His faithfulness!
- 4 My soul is in the midst of lions;  
I lie down amid fiery beasts —  
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
whose tongues are sharp swords.
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let Your glory be over all the earth!
- 6 They set a net for my steps;  
my soul was bowed down.  
They dug a pit in my way,  
but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*
- 7 My heart is steadfast, O God,  
my heart is steadfast!  
I will sing and make melody!
- 8 Awake, my glory!  
Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn!

- 9 I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples;  
I will sing praises to You among the nations.
- 10 For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens,  
Your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let Your glory be over all the earth!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Lord God Almighty, as we gaze upon Your holiness,  
we are devastated by our sinfulness.**

**Show us our Savior!**

**The prophet cried, "Woe is me!"  
as his unclean lips were exposed  
in the light of Your holiness.**

**We come boldly to You because the woe that we deserve  
has been entirely poured out on Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you, Father, that the cross stands empty now.  
Jesus is risen, and You have made us alive in Him.  
Grant us the grace to live lives set apart by Your grace,  
reflecting Your glory,  
that the world might see and bring glory to You.**

**In Jesus' 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

*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.

*I declare to you that in Christ, your sins are forgiven.*

# SONGS OF ASSURANCE

## *Thy Mercy, My God*

**Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
the joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
hath won my affection, and bound my soul fast.**

**Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
but through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
and He that first made me still keeps me alive.**

**Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
and weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.**

**Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,  
and the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
all praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine  
seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.**

Words attr. to John Stocker. Music by Sandra McCracken (2001)  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN.  
Music: © 2001 Same Old Dress Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

## *My Glorious Hope*

**Though waves of troubles come  
and pour in like a flood,  
my soul will not despair.**

**Within Your sovereign arms,  
no valley is too dark  
to keep me from Your care.**

**Your presence and Your promises  
are joy and life to me.**

***Jesus, You're my glorious hope;  
ever faithful to Your own.  
You have filled my nights  
with Your sweet song of grace.  
Jesus You're my glorious hope;  
my glorious hope.***

**When condemnations rise,  
when failures fill my eyes,  
remind me once again:**



**That my sufficiency  
is found upon the tree  
that bought my righteousness.  
The depth of Your unchanging love,  
displayed on Calvary.**

***Jesus, You're my glorious hope;  
ever faithful to Your own.  
You have filled my nights  
with Your sweet song of grace.  
Jesus You're my glorious hope;  
my glorious hope.***

Music and words by Steve and Vicki Cook (2003).  
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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

*John 6:41–71*

<sup>41</sup> So the Jews grumbled about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup> They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'"

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves.

<sup>44</sup> No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.'

Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me — <sup>46</sup> not that anyone has seen the Father except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes

has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

<sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he also will live because of Me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as He taught at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of His disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him.) <sup>65</sup> And He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted him by the Father."

<sup>66</sup> After this many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God." <sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." <sup>71</sup> He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray 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.**



# GIVING TO THE LORD

*Philippians 4:19*

And my God will supply every need of yours  
according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*

**My faith has found a resting place,  
not in device nor creed;  
I trust the ever-living One,  
His wounds for me shall plead.**

*I need no other argument,  
I need no other plea;  
It is enough that Jesus died  
and that He died for me.*

**Enough for me that Jesus saves,  
this ends my fear and doubt;  
a sinful soul I come to Him,  
He'll never cast me out.**

*I need no other argument,  
I need no other plea;  
It is enough that Jesus died  
and that He died for me.*

**My great Physician heals the sick,  
the lost He came to save;  
for me His precious blood He shed,  
for me His life He gave.**

*I need no other argument,  
I need no other plea;  
It is enough that Jesus died  
and that He died for me.*

Words by Lidie H. Edmunds (1891; Alt. 1990).  
Music by André Grétry (1741-1831); arr. by William J. Kirkpatrick (1891).  
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.*

## 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**

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

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(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*