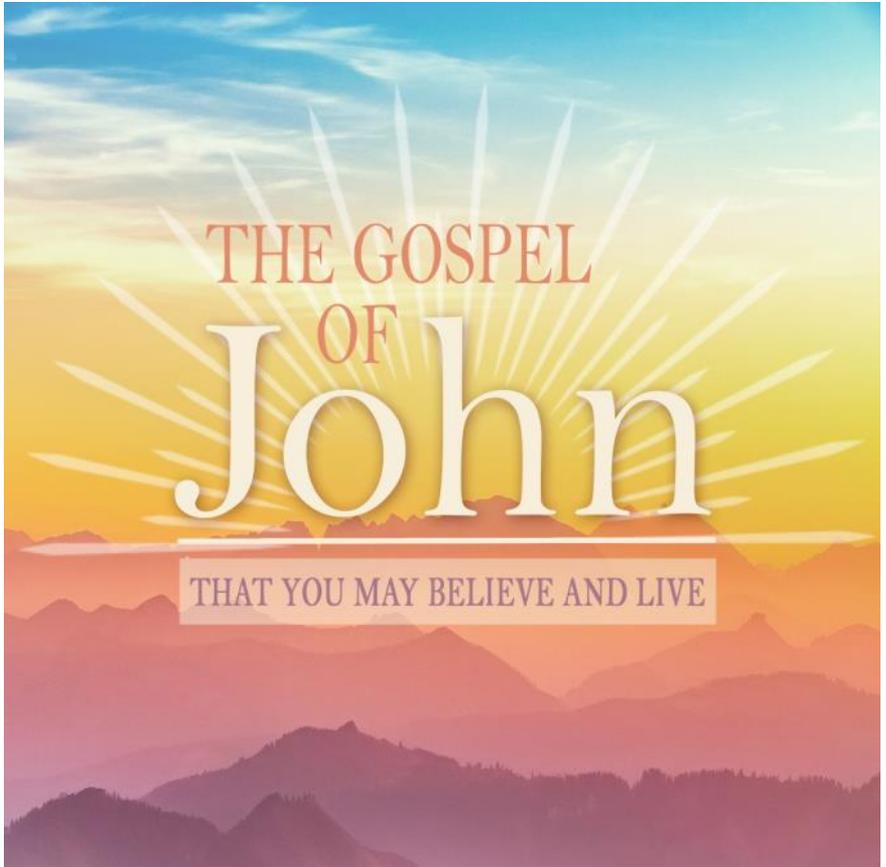




Ascension PCA

October 8, 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, the Triune God, I want to know 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!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 34:8a / Nehemiah 9:5b-6

- M: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Stand up and bless the LORD your God
from everlasting to everlasting.
Blessed be Your glorious name,
which is exalted above all blessing and praise.
- P: **You are the LORD, You alone.
You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens,
with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them;
and you preserve all of them;
and the host of heaven worships You.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

ending in the Lord's Prayer

- P: **Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever, Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

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)
© 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of His grace.**

**Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.**

**He speaks and list'ning to His voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.**

...

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of Thy name.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1739).

Music by Carl G. Gläser (1828); arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 58

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David.

- 1 Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods?
Do you judge the children of man uprightly?
- 2 No, in your hearts you devise wrongs;
your hands deal out violence on earth.
- 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb;
they go astray from birth, speaking lies.
- 4 They have venom like the venom of a serpent,
like the deaf adder that stops its ear,
5 so that it does not hear the voice of charmers
or of the cunning enchanter.
- 6 O God, break the teeth in their mouths;
tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!
- 7 Let them vanish like water that runs away;
when he aims his arrows, let them be blunted.
- 8 Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime,
like the stillborn child who never sees the sun.
- 9 Sooner than your pots can feel the heat of thorns,
whether green or ablaze, may he sweep them away!
- 10 The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance;
he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked.
- 11 Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous;
surely there is a God who judges on earth."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful Father, we have sinned times without number,
and been guilty of pride and unbelief,
and of neglect to seek You in our daily lives.**

**Our sins and shortcomings present us
with a list of accusations.**

**Yet we thank You that they will not stand against us,
for all have been laid on Christ.**

**So now, by Your Spirit, deliver us
from every evil habit,
every interest of former sins,
everything that dims the brightness
of Your grace in us,
and everything that prevents us
from taking delight in 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 John 4:10

This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us
and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

*So to all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:*

In Jesus, you are accepted, you are forgiven, you are loved.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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 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 6:48-71

⁴⁸ "I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ 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."

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" ⁵³ 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. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ 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. ⁵⁸ 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." ⁵⁹ Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as He taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of His disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? ⁶³ 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. ⁶⁴ 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.) ⁶⁵ And He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted him by the Father."

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

**Praise my Savior God that drew me
to that cross, new life to give;
held a blood-sealed pardon to me,
bade me look to Him and live.
Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,
roused me from my fatal ease;
praise the grace whose promise warmed me,
praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817).
Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Alex Williams

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God
and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?

Do you acknowledge your need for the grace of God,
humbling yourself,
offering no morality or righteousness of your own,
but asking only for the mercy of God in Christ?

Do you accept Christ as the sacrifice for your sin,
as the Prophet for all your truth,
and as the King of all your life,
resting on Him and His righteousness alone
for your salvation?

Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling
by reliance on the Holy Spirit
according to the Word of God?

Do you promise to support this communion
with your prayers and offerings,
to strive for its purity and peace,
and to submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

TO THE BODY OF CHRIST: (PLEASE STAND)

M: Do you as a congregation,
now welcome this brother as a member of this body?

P: We do.

M: Do you promise to take seriously your responsibilities
to build up him up
and to seek to practice with him
true Christian community
and true Biblical church life?

P: We do.

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

adapted from The Valley of Vision, "Bounty"

**P: Our God rules all things in wisdom, love, and power.
He has made summer and winter, day and night,
so that each of these revolutions serves our welfare
and is full of His care and kindness.**

**But as the stars fade before the rising sun,
He has eclipsed all benefits with the wisdom and grace
that purposed our eternal redemption.**

**By His great mercy, God laid our salvation
on His mighty and willing Son, our Savior;
One that is able to save to the uttermost.
His name is Jesus.**

**By His grace, His blood cleanses us from our sin.
God imputes to us His righteousness,
which justifies the guilty,
and gives us title to eternal life
and possession of the Holy Spirit.**

**By this Spirit of life-giving wisdom and power
we have faith to grasp God's promises,
rejoice in our hope,
turn from evil,
and live for the glory of our Savior.**

Thanks be to God!

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, Strong and Kind

**Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

Words and music by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,
Colin Buchanan.
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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
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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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