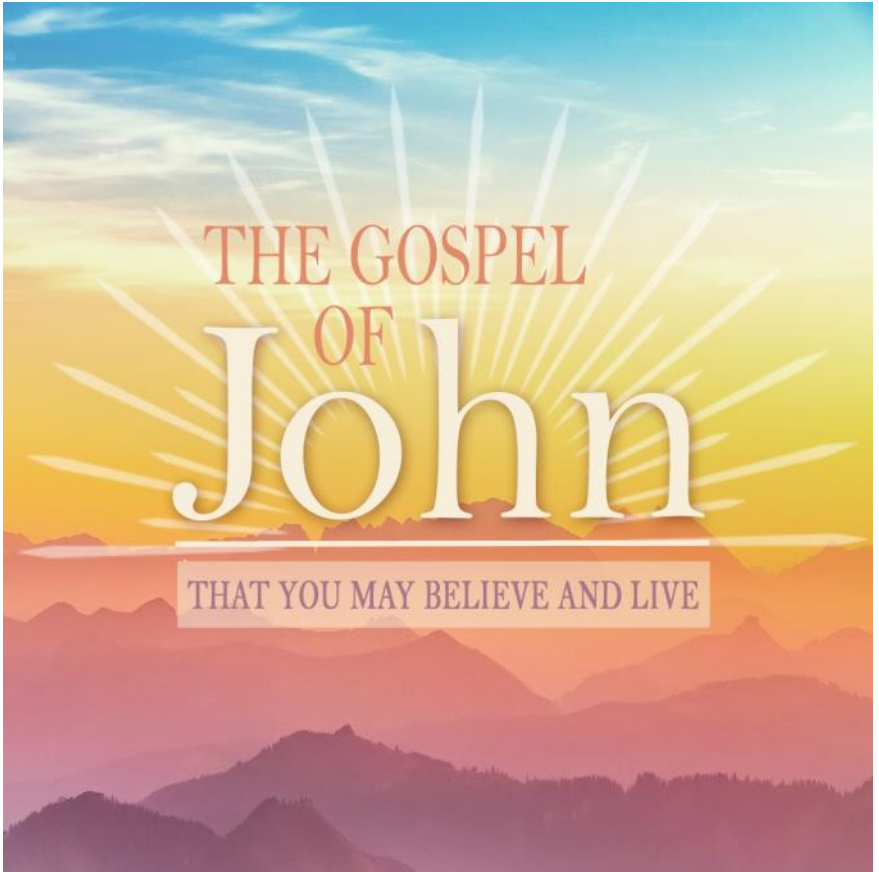




Ascension PCA

October 15, 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

"Abide in Him." You did well to come; you do better to abide.
Who would, after seeking the King's palace,
be content to stand in the door,
when he is invited in to dwell in the King's presence,
and share with Him in all the glory of His royal life?
Oh, let us enter in and abide, and enjoy to the full
all the rich supply His wondrous love hath prepared for us!

~ Andrew Murray

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

Psalm 99:1-5, 9

M: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth quake!
The LORD is great in Zion;
He is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise Your great and awesome name!

P: Holy is He!

M: The King in His might loves justice.
You have established equity;
You have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
Exalt the LORD our God;
worship at His footstool!

P: Holy is He!

**[Let us] exalt the LORD our God,
and worship at His holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

All Creatures of Our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise Him! Alleluia!**

**Thou, burning sun with golden beam,
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All the redeemed washed by His blood,
come and rejoice in His great love,**

O praise Him! Alleluia!

**Christ has defeated every sin,
cast all your burdens now on Him,**

O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**He shall return in pow'r to reign,
Heaven and earth will join to say,**

O praise Him! Alleluia!

**Then who shall fall on bended knee?
all creatures of our God and King,**

O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Original words (v. 1–2) by St. Francis of Assisi,
translated by William Henry Draper (1926).

Additional words (v. 3–4) by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.

16th Century German tune, adapted by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.

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Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
Every star and every planet
has been fashioned by Your hand.**

**All creation holds together
by the power of Your voice.**

**Let the skies declare Your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice!**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
with a word You calmed the sea.**

**Yet how silently You suffered,
that the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

**With a shout You rose victorious,
wresting vict'ry from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,
interceding for Your own.**

**From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2002 Thankyou Music

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 59

Elder C.J. DeGroot

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy.

A Miktam of David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him.

- 1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
protect me from those who rise up against me;
- 2 deliver me from those who work evil,
and save me from bloodthirsty men.
- 3 For behold, they lie in wait for my life;
fierce men stir up strife against me.
- 4 For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD,
for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.
Awake, come to meet me, and see!

5 You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel.
Rouse Yourself to punish all the nations;
spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. *Selah*

6 Each evening they come back,
howling like dogs
and prowling about the city.

7 There they are, bellowing with their mouths
with swords in their lips —
for “Who,” they think, “will hear us?”

8 But You, O LORD, laugh at them;
You hold all the nations in derision.

9 O my Strength, I will watch for You,
for You, O God, are my fortress.

10 My God in His steadfast love will meet me;
God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

11 Kill them not, lest my people forget;
make them totter by Your power and bring them down,
O LORD, our shield!

12 For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips,
let them be trapped in their pride.
For the cursing and lies that they utter,
consume them in wrath;
consume them till they are no more,
that they may know that God rules over Jacob
to the ends of the earth. *Selah*

14 Each evening they come back,
howling like dogs
and prowling about the city.

15 They wander about for food
and growl if they do not get their fill.

16 But I will sing of Your strength;
I will sing aloud of Your steadfast love in the morning.
For You have been to me a fortress
and a refuge in the day of my distress.

17 O my Strength, I will sing praises to You,
for you, O God, are my fortress,
the God who shows me steadfast love.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Wonderful Savior,

**We thank you for Your wondrous grace and love
in bearing our sin in Your body on the cross.**

**May Your cross be to us the tree
that sweetens every bitterness in our lives;
the rod that blossoms with hope and beauty;
the vine that connects us to you,
the only source of all our strength.**

**We have died with You, have risen with You,
and are even now seated with you in heavenly places.**

And yet we find that sin continues to have power over us.

**We struggle to fix our eyes on You, to abide in You,
and instead follow the ways of the world.**

**We struggle to choose love for others
over pleasing ourselves.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Increase our joy in the cross of Christ,
and our wonder and admiration for all
that was accomplished there,
until our hearts melt and our self-worship
gives way to delight in our salvation.**

We pray this in the name of our glorious Redeemer, 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

adapted from Zephaniah 3

People of God, sing! Give a loud shout and be glad!
Let your hearts be full of joy. The LORD has stopped punishing you.
He has turned from your sins and enemies away from you.
The LORD is King of all. He is with you. He is mighty and will save you.
He will take great delight in you. The quietness of His love will calm
you. He will sing with joy because of you.

P: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,
precious Redeemer, and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
rescue the souls of men?**

Oh, you rescue the souls of men.

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
hopelessly lost the way.**

Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

You are the One that we praise,

You are the One we adore.

*You give the healing and grace our
hearts always hunger for;*

Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

**Almighty, infinite Father,
faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
falling before Your throne.**

Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

You are the One that we praise,

You are the One we adore.

*You give the healing and grace our
hearts always hunger for;*

Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Words and music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse.

© 1989 Word Music ASCAP & Dayspring Music BME

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 7:1-36

¹ After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. ² Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. ³ So His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works You are doing. ⁴ For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." ⁵ For not even His brothers believed in Him. ⁶ Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify about it that its works are evil. ⁸ You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." ⁹ After saying this, He remained in Galilee.

¹⁰ But after His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He also went up, not publicly but in private. ¹¹ The Jews were looking for Him at the feast, and saying, "Where is He?" ¹² And there was much muttering about Him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, He is leading the people astray." ¹³ Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of Him.

¹⁴ About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. ¹⁵ The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when He has never studied?" ¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷ If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on My own authority. ¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. ¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill Me?" ²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill You?" ²¹ Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with Me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? ²⁴ Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? ²⁶ And here He is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to Him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears,

no one will know where He comes from.”²⁸ So Jesus proclaimed, as He taught in the temple, “You know Me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of My own accord. He who sent Me is true, and Him you do not know.”²⁹ I know Him, for I come from Him, and He sent Me.”³⁰ So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.³¹ Yet many of the people believed in Him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will He do more signs than this man has done?”

³²The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Him.³³ Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to Him who sent Me.”³⁴ You will seek Me and you will not find Me. Where I am you cannot come.”³⁵ The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?”³⁶ What does He mean by saying, ‘You will seek Me and you will not find Me,’ and, ‘Where I am you cannot come?’”

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 Father’s Glory”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

Proverbs 3:9

Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce.

SONG OF RESPONSE

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

**On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land
where my possessions lie.**

**O'er all those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns,
and scatters night away.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
sickness, sorrow, pain, and death
are felt and feared no more.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**When I shall reach that happy place
I'll be forever blest
for I shall see my Father's face
and in His bosom rest.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

Words by Samuel Stennet (1787). Music by Christopher Miner (1997).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1997 Getty Music Hymns and Songs

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 Ephesians 2:1-10

P: We were dead in our transgressions and sins, in which we used to live when we followed the ways of this world, of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

All of us lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. It is by grace we have been saved.

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith — and this not from ourselves, it is the gift of God —

It is not by works. None of us can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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

There Is a Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer: Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.**

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face.
There I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.**

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

Words and music by Melody Green (1982).

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Ears To Hear (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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
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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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