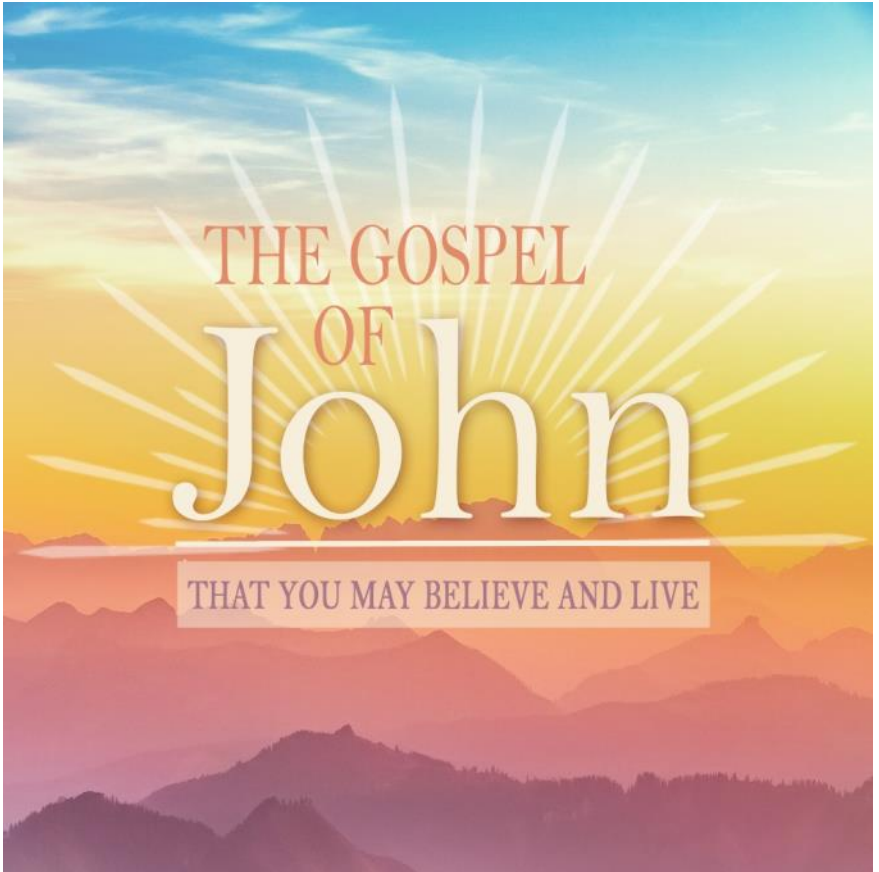




Ascension PCA

October 29, 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

A debtor to mercy alone, of covenant mercy I sing;
nor fear, with Thy righteousness on, my person and offering to bring.
The terrors of law and of God with me can have nothing to do;
my Savior's obedience and blood hide all my transgressions from view.
My name from the palms of His hands eternity will not erase;
impressed on His heart it remains in marks of indelible grace...
Things future, nor things that are now, nor all things below or above,
can make Him His purpose forgo or sever my soul from His love.

~ Augustus Toplady

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 99:1-3 and 1 Timothy 1:17

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!
Holy is He!

**P: To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 66

**All lands to God in joyful sounds,
aloft your voices raise;
sing forth the honor of His name,
and glorious make His praise.
Sing forth the honor of His name,
and glorious make His praise.**

**Yes, all the earth shall worship Thee
and unto Thee shall sing;
and to Thy name most glorious,
their songs of praise shall bring.
And to Thy name most glorious,
their songs of praise shall bring.**

**O all ye people, bless our God;
aloud proclaim His praise,
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
our feet from sliding stays.
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
our feet from sliding stays.**

Words based on *Scottish Psalter* (1650), the *Book of Psalms* (1871),
and *The Psalter* (1912).

©1994 *Trinity Psalter*, Crown & Covenant Publications

There is a Higher Throne

**There is a higher throne
than all this world has known;
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.**

**Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace.
Salvation comes.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

**And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song
where we belong.**

**He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die;
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.
© 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 61

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 1 Hear my cry, O God,
listen to my prayer;
- 2 from the end of the earth I call to You
when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I,
- 3 for You have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.
- 4 Let me dwell in Your tent forever!
Let me take refuge under the shelter of Your wings! *Selah*
- 5 For you, O God, have heard my vows;
You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.
- 6 Prolong the life of the king;
may his years endure to all generations!
- 7 May he be enthroned forever before God;
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!
- 8 So will I ever sing praises to Your name,
as I perform my vows day after day.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Eternal God,

**in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget
in the blindness of our hearts...**

**Cleanse us, we pray, from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with lowliness and meekness
we may draw near to Thee,
confessing our faults, confiding in Thy grace,
and finding in Thee our refuge and our strength.**

Through Jesus Christ Thy Son. 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 54:8, 43:25, 44:22

*"With everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD, your Redeemer.*

*"I am He
who blots out your transgressions for My own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.
Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."*

Believe this good news and live in peace. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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).
© 2020 Sovereign Grace Praise

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 7:53 – 8:11

⁵³ [[They went each to his own house, ¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning He came again to the temple. All the people came to Him, and He sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do You say?" ⁶ This they said to test Him, that they might have some charge to bring against Him. Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask Him, He stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ And once more He bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before Him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

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

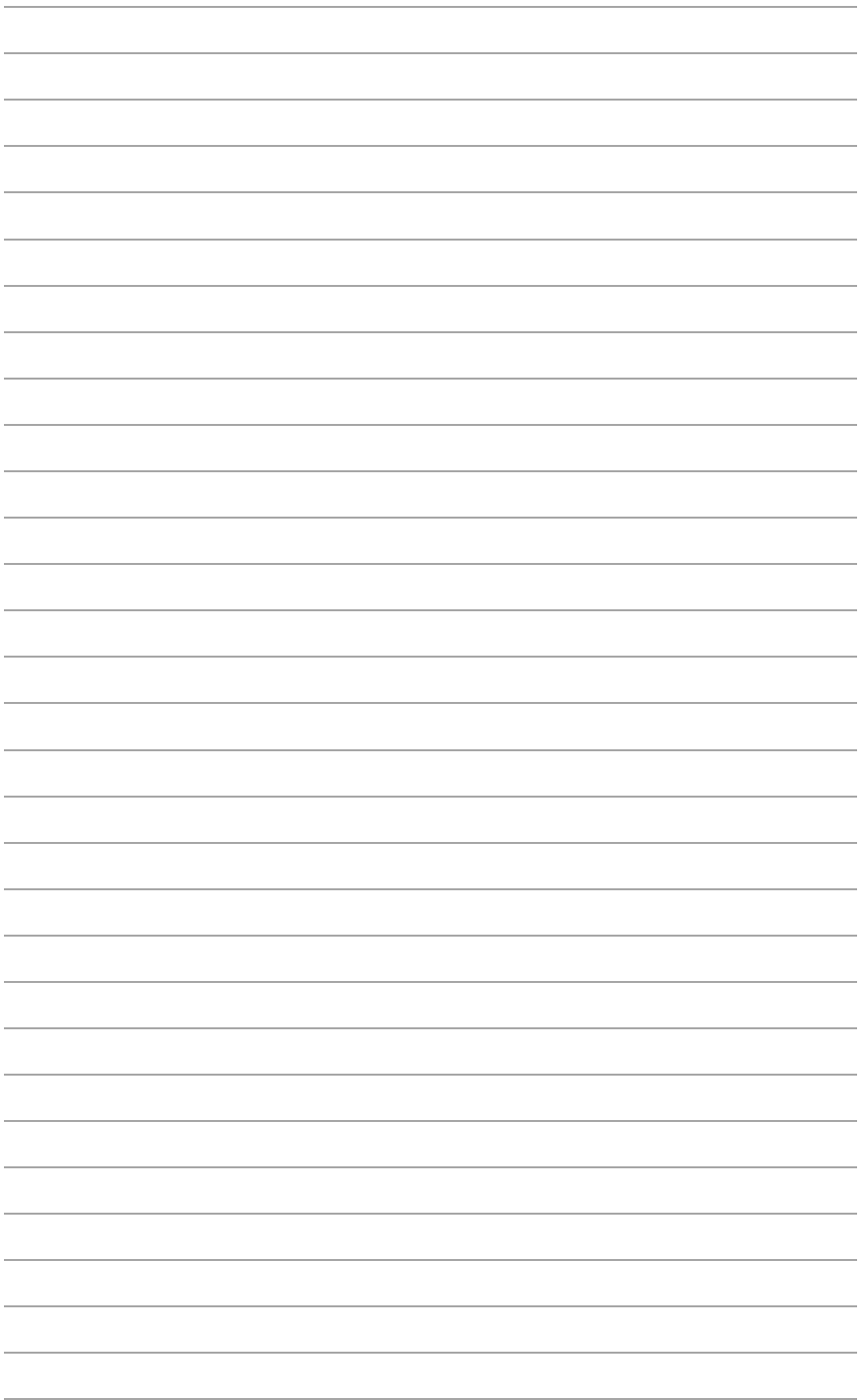
"Perfect Justice"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

Series of horizontal lines for writing notes.



GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 33:20-21

Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in Him,
because we trust in His holy name.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

**Let us love and sing and wonder,
let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God.**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us,
pitied us when enemies,
called us by His grace and taught us,
gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood,
He presents our souls to God.**

**Let us wonder; grace and justice
join and point to mercy's store;
when thro' grace in Christ our trust is,
justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with His blood
has secured our way to God.**

**Let us praise, and join the chorus
of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted Him before us,
now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with Your blood;
You are worthy, Lamb of God!"**

Words by John Newton (1774, mod.).
Music from *Darmstadt Gesangbuch* (1698)
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

Romans 3:21-25a, 5:1

**P: But now the righteousness of God
has been manifested
apart from the law,
although the Law and the prophets
bear witness to it —
the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ
for all who believe.**

**For there is no distinction:
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
and are justified by His grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
who God put forward as a propitiation by His blood,
to be received by faith.**

**Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**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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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
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

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

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