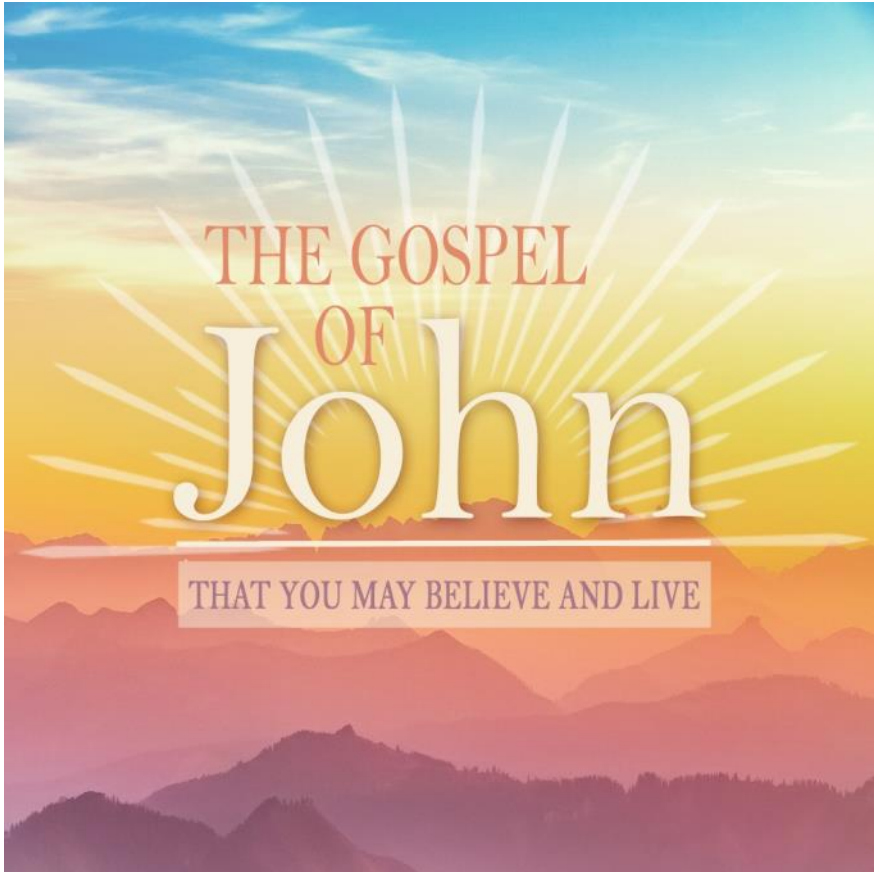




Ascension PCA

November 5, 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

My heart is resting, O my God,
I will give thanks and sing;
My heart is at the secret source
of every precious thing.
Now the frail vessel Thou hast made,
no hand but Thine shall fill;
For the waters of the earth have failed,
and I am thirsty still.

~ Anna Waring

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

Lamentations 3:22-26, Psalm 27:1

M: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness.
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in Him.”
The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,
to the soul who seeks Him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

**P: The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Glorious and Mighty

**Majesty, Your glory is shining
brighter than the moon and the stars.
Marveling, we honor and fear You
above all gods.**

*Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens,
Your decrees can never be changed.
Over all the plans of the nations,
Your judgments reign.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation
when You come again in the clouds.
Every knee will bow down and worship
the one true God.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!***

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining.
Music by Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining.
© 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

**Out of the depths I cry to You,
in darkest places I will call,
incline Your ear to me anew,
and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,
how could I come before Your throne?
yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
till my soul is satisfied.***

**So put Your hope in God alone,
take courage in His power to save,
completely and forever won
by Christ emerging from the grave.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
till my soul is satisfied.***

**Now He has come to make a way,
and God Himself has paid the price,
that all who trust in Him today
find healing in His sacrifice.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.***

***I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.***

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.***

***I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.***

Words and music by

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend

© 2018 Getty Music Publishing, Jordan Kauflin Music, Matthew Merker Music, Townend Songs

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 62

Elder Brett Chase

- 1 For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from Him comes my salvation.
- 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.
- 3 How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
- 4 They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.
- 5 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from Him.
- 6 He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Selah

7 On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
8 Trust in Him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before Him;
God is a refuge for us.
9 Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.
10 Put no trust in extortion;
set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.
11 Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
12 and that to You, O LORD, belongs steadfast love.
For You will render to a man
according to his work.

Selah

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Come, blessed Spirit,
show us our sin in all its worst colors,
that we may feel an unwavering hatred of it.
Show us the majesty and mercy of God in such a way
that our hearts will be alarmed and melted.
Convince us, O Holy Spirit, of sin, righteousness,
and repentance.
Show us the power of Christ to save!
Help us to see Him extended on the cross,
arms open wide, with a pierced, bleeding side,
telling us what room is in His heart for us.
May we confide in His power and love.
May we commit our spirits to Him without reserve.
May we bear His image, observe His laws,
and pursue His service.
And through time and eternity
may we remain a monument of the power of the gospel,
and a trophy of His victorious grace.
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.*

THE GOOD NEWS

Ephesians 1:4-7

In love He predestined us for adoption
to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of His will,
to the praise of His glorious grace,
with which He has loved us in the Beloved.

In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of His grace.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, Thank You

**The myst'ry of the cross
I cannot comprehend,
The agonies of Calvary.
You the perfect, Holy One,
crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me.**

*Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.
The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.*

**By Your perfect sacrifice
I've been brought near;
Your enemy You've made Your friend.
Pouring out the riches
of Your glorious grace,
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.**

*Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.
The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.*

Words and music by Pat Sczebel
© 2003 Integrity's Hosanna Music, Sovereign Grace Worship

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 8:12-30

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³ So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are bearing witness about Yourself; Your testimony is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about Myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, My judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent Me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the One who bears witness about Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness about Me." ¹⁹ They said to Him therefore, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you knew Me, you would know My Father also." ²⁰ These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; but no one arrested Him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ So He said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." ²² So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'" ²³ He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins." ²⁵ So they said to Him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. ²⁶ I have much to say about you and much to judge, but He who sent Me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from Him." ²⁷ They did not understand that He had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing on My own authority, but speak just as the Father taught Me. ²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." ³⁰ As He was saying these things, many believed in Him.

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Church's One Foundation

**The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is His new creation
by water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.**

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866). Music by Samuel S. Wesley (1864).
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

M: Do you believe in God the Father?

**P: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

M: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**P: I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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.**

M: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**P: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
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.

SONG OF MEDITATION

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,
unbar the way to heaven's crown.**

**O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
when will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
we grope in gloom and dark of night.**

**Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh come, lead us, with mighty hand
through exile to the promised land.**

**There shall we all our praises bring
ever to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore,
forever and forever more.
forever and forever more.
forever and forever more.**

Words by Friedrich von Spee (1622);
translated by Martin L. Seltz (1969).
Music by Nathan Partain (2003).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music © 2003 UBP: Partain, Nathan.

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

Song lyrics reproduced by permission: **CCL#11181050**

Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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.

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock *nate@ascension-pca.org*

PASTOR EMERITUS:

Rev. Ed Volz *volz.edw@gmail.com*

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rina Kroes *office@ascension-pca.org*

ELDERS:

Brett Chase *brett@ascension-pca.org*

C.J. DeGroot *cjdegroot@ascension-pca.org*

Chris Sledge *chris@ascension-pca.org*

Philip Suh *philipsuh@ascension-pca.org*

Theo Vander Wel *theo@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

Kyle Bartlett *kyle@ascension-pca.org*

Mike Wheeler *mike@ascension-pca.org*

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge *cmkesledge@gmail.com*

MEAL COORDINATOR:

Sheila Bloedow *s.bloedow@comcast.net*

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Rebecca Wheeler *rwheeler2022@outlook.com*

MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):

Dave Ball *dave@daveball.net*



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

Meeting Address: 8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

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

APC Office: Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)
(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*