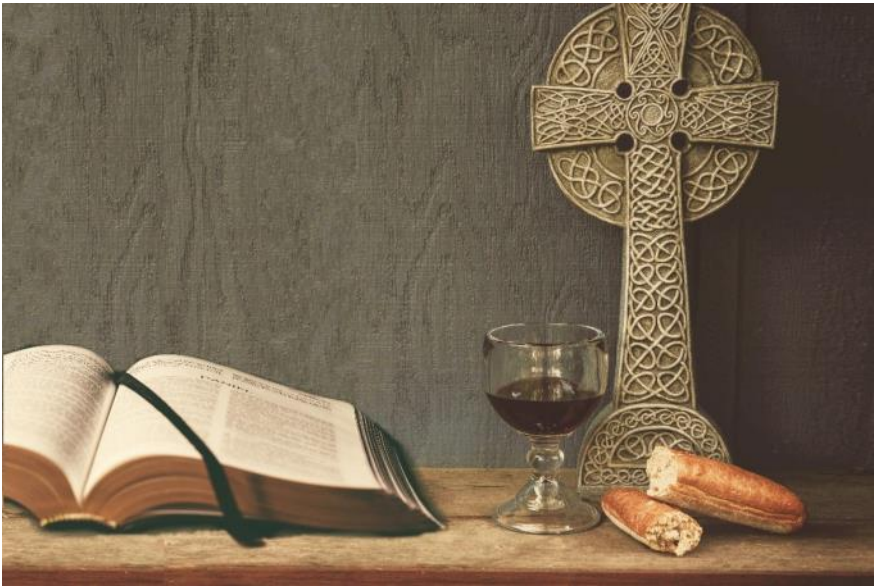




Ascension PCA

November 12, 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

Now then, little man,
for a short time fly from your business;
hide yourself for a moment from your turbulent thoughts.
Break off now your troublesome cares,
and think less of your laborious occupations.
Make a little time for God, and rest for a while in Him.
Enter into the chamber of your mind,
shut out everything but God
and whatever helps you to seek Him,
and, when you have shut the door, seek Him.
Speak now, O my whole heart, speak now to God:
"I seek Thy face; Thy face, Lord, do I desire."

~ Anselm of Canterbury

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

from Revelation 19:5-7

M: Praise our God, all you His servants,
you who fear Him, both small and great!

P: **Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!
Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise Him, for He is
thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,
who doth prosper thy work and defend thee.
Surely His goodness and mercy
here daily attend thee.**

**Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with His love He befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863).
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

My Redeemer

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.***

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)

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 63

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You;
my soul thirsts for You;
my flesh faints for You,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- 2 So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary,
beholding Your power and glory.
- 3 Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise You.
- 4 So I will bless You as long as I live;
in Your name I will lift up my hands.
- 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips,
when I remember You upon my bed,
and meditate on You in the watches of the night;
- 7 for You have been my help,
and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.
- 8 My soul clings to You;
Your right hand upholds me.
- 9 But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.
- 11 But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by Him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Eternal and merciful God, You have loved us
with a love beyond understanding,
and You have set us on paths of righteousness
for Your name's sake.**

**Yet we have strayed from Your way;
we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
through what we have done
and what we have left undone.**

**As we remember Your lavish gift of grace
in Your Son Jesus,
we praise You and give You thanks that You forgive us.**

**Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin,
and to rise daily to new life in Christ,
who lives and reigns with You,
in Whose 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

Jeremiah 33:8 & Acts 10:43

- L: "I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against Me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against Me."
- P: To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in [Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins through His name.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.**

**Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
to Thy glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore.**

**How He watches o'er His loved ones,
died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to Thee.**

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).
Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

2 Kings 5:1-15

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵ And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷ And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house.

¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do

it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, “Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.”

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

“Naaman’s Healing”

Mr. Philip Suh

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Corinthians 8:2-3

Out of the most severe trial, their over-flowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For...they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Lord is All That's Good (Psalm 136)

**The Lord is all that's good.
He is the Power of powers,
He is the Beauty of beauties,
He is the Fear of fears.**

**He alone is the Author of wonders,
His thoughts are like the universe.
His care spread the earth on the water,
He's the Truth of the day,
He's the Hope through the night.**

His love endures forever!

He is Steadfast,

He is Faithful.

His love endures forever!

He is a Fortress.

He is more than able

to make us stand pure in His sight.

**He crushed the head of death,
delivered us from the reach of His hand.
With His mighty arm
He made us a path,
a way through the deep,
we walk on dry land.**

**While Pharaoh is damned to darkness,
He guides us through the wilderness.
He breaks every scepter,
makes low every name.
In us He has planted His kingdom, His flame.**

His love endures forever!

He is Steadfast,

He is Faithful.

His love endures forever!

...

***He is a Fortress.
He is more than able
to make us like stars in the night.***

**He never forgets our weakness.
He spares us from the enemy.
He strengthens our souls
with the breath of His mouth.
Give thanks to the Lord of heaven.
Cry out:**

***His love endures forever!
He is Steadfast,
He is Faithful.
His love endures forever!
He is a Fortress.
He is more than able ...***

***His love endures forever!
He is Steadfast,
He is Faithful.
His love endures forever!
He is a Fortress.
He is more than able
to raise us from death unto life.***

Words and music by Nathan Partain.
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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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

**What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.**

*O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.*

**What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.**

...

**Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

**Unto the grave, what will we sing?
"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

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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Scripture text from

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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

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