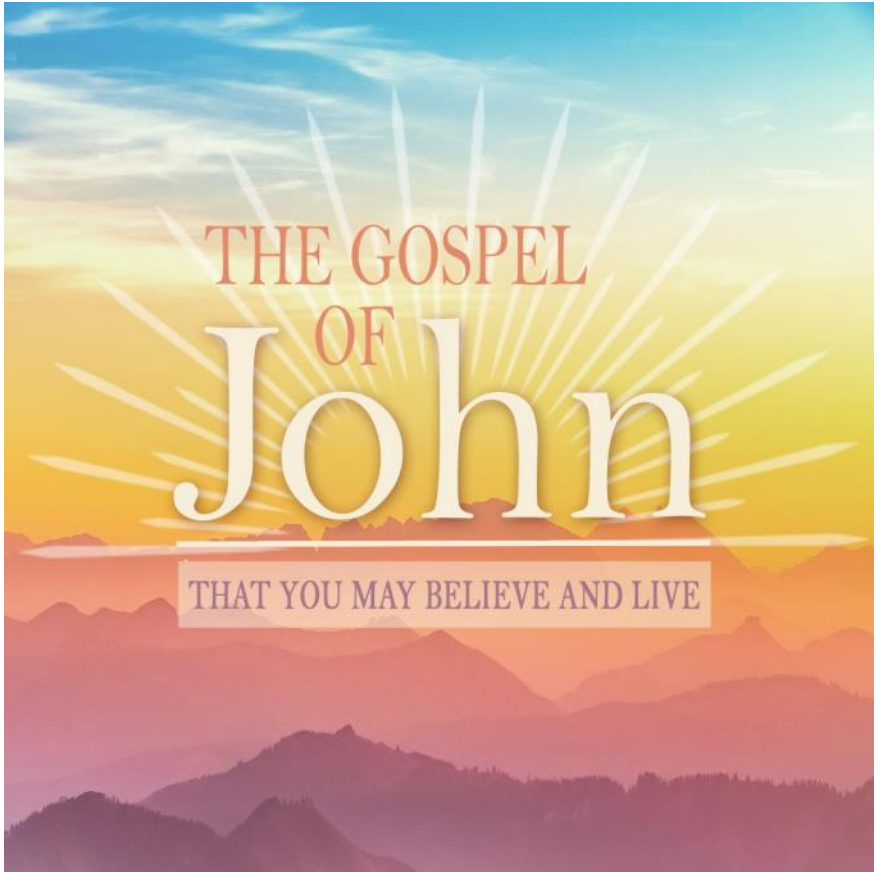




Ascension PCA

November 26, 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 believer longs after God:
to come into His presence,
to feel His love,
to feel near to Him in secret,
to feel in the crowd that He is nearer than all the creatures.

Ah! Dear brethren, have you ever tasted this blessedness?
There is greater rest and solace to be found
in the presence of God for one hour,
than in an eternity of the presence of man

~ Robert Murray M'Cheyne

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

Isaiah 6:1-3

M: In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two He covered His face, and with two He covered His feet, and with two He flew. And one called to another and said:

**P: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!"**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy!

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see.**

**Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Words by Reginald Heber (1783-1826). Music by John B. Dykes (1861).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified,
in Thy presence to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come,
raise the glorious harvest home.**

Words by Henry Alford (1844, 1867). Music by George J. Elvey (1859).
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 65

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 1 Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion,
and to You shall vows be performed.
- 2 O You who hear prayer,
to You shall all flesh come.
- 3 When iniquities prevail against me,
You atone for our transgressions.
- 4 Blessed is the one You choose and bring near,
to dwell in Your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,
the holiness of Your temple!
- 5 By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;
- 6 the One who by His strength established the mountains,
being girded with might;
- 7 who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples,
- 8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth
are in awe at Your signs.
You make the going out of the morning and the evening
to shout for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it;
You greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
You provide their grain,
for so You have prepared it.
- 10 You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
- 11 You crown the year with Your bounty;
Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
- 12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 51:1-2

**P: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

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

Psalm 32:10-11

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
and hung Him on that judgment tree.**

*I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the Holy Judge:
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.*

**I will glory in my Redeemer.
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone.**

*I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness, my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.*

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (2001).
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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 8:48-59

⁴⁸ The Jews answered Him, "Are we not right in saying that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste death.'" ⁵³ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do You make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. It is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" ⁵⁵ But you have not known Him. I know Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and I keep His word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus Hid himself and went out of the temple.

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

Praise be to You, O LORD, God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power,
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is Yours.
Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom;
You are exalted as head over all.
Wealth and honor come from You;
You are the ruler of all things.
In Your hands are strength and power to exalt
and give strength to all.
Now, our God, we give You thanks,
and praise Your glorious Name. Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown Him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail Him who saves you by His grace
and crown Him Lord of all;
hail Him who saves you by His grace
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
on this terrestrial ball
to Him all majesty ascribe
and crown Him Lord of all;
to Him all majesty ascribe
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng
we at His feet may fall;
we'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all;
we'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all!**

Verses 1-2 by Edward Perronet (1779); verse 3 by John Rippon (1787).
Music by Oliver Holden (1793).
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

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.**

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.

PRAYER | MEDITATION

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

APC Office: Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)
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