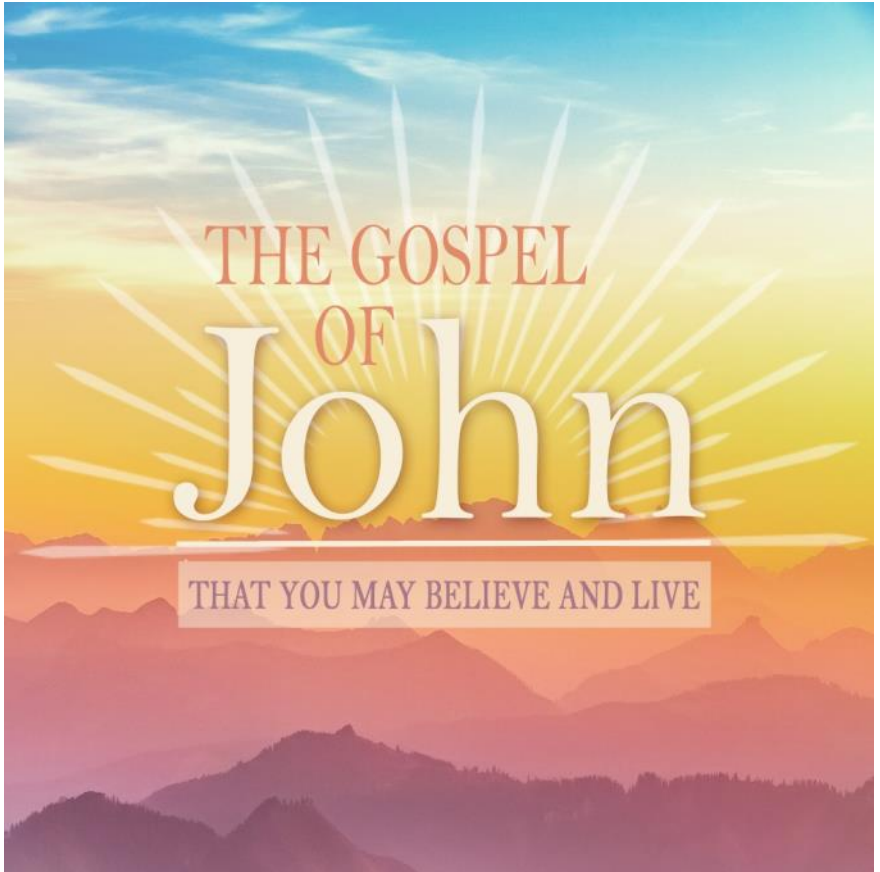




Ascension PCA

February 11, 2024



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

**Precious Lord Jesus,
clothe me with the wedding garment of Your righteousness,
and feed me with the rich food of Your body and blood.**

**Be my covering, my joy, and my all —
so that when I am at Your church, at Your table,
at Your house of prayer below,
or at Your kingdom of glory above,
You the King will come in to see Your guests,
and my soul may cry out...**

*I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.*

*For He has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

(Isaiah 61:10)

~ Robert Hawker

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

based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

M: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

P: The LORD is the stronghold of our lives.

**We desire to live in God's house
and to seek God in His holy temple.**

**We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and to make music to the LORD.**

M: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**P: Teach us Your ways and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

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 with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health and with loving hand
guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief,
spreading His winds to o'er shade 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

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.*

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 70

Elder Philip Suh

- 1 Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!
- 2 Let them be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life!
Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor
who delight in my hurt!
- 3 Let them turn back because of their shame
who say, "Aha, Aha!"
- 4 May all who seek You
rejoice and be glad in You!
May those who love Your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
- 5 But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from Matthew 6:30-33

**P: Merciful God, we humble ourselves in Your presence,
confessing our unworthiness
and sinfulness in Your sight.**

**We have not sought first Your kingdom
and righteousness.**

**We have been anxious
and troubled about many things.**

**We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves,
or done to others as we would have them do to us.**

**Most gracious God, our heavenly Father,
who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ,
to save Your people from their sins; forgive us.**

**Cleanse us from all unrighteousness,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
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

1 Peter 2:9-10

L: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
a people for His own possession,
that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him
who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

SONGS 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.***

***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

Glorious Christ

**The radiance of the Father
before the dawn of time;
You spoke and all creation came to be.
The molecules and planets
reveal Your great design,
and every one was made so we could see,
so we could see:**

***You are the glorious Christ,
the greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.***

***No greater sacrifice
than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
who praise You day and night,
Glorious Christ.***

**You left the air of heaven
to breathe the dust of earth,
and dwell among the outcast and the poor.
You came to be forsaken
and died to take our curse,
so You could be our joy forevermore,
forevermore.**

***You are the glorious Christ,
the greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.***

**No greater sacrifice
than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
who praise You day and night ...**

**You are the glorious Christ,
the greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.**

**No greater sacrifice
than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
who praise You day and night,
Glorious Christ.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin
© 2012 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 11:45-57; 12:9-11

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what He did, believed in Him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put Him to death.

⁵⁴ Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there He stayed with the disciples.

⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. ⁵⁶ They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That He will not come to the feast at all?" ⁵⁷ Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest Him.

⁹ When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

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

"One Man Must Die"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

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 & THANKSGIVING

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!

**Jesus, what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus, lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus, I do now receive Him,
more than all in Him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

Words by J. Wilbur Chapman (1910).
Music by Rowland H. Pritchard (1855).
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.

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.
Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available from the trays.
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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Scripture text from

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

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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 on the back page.

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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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