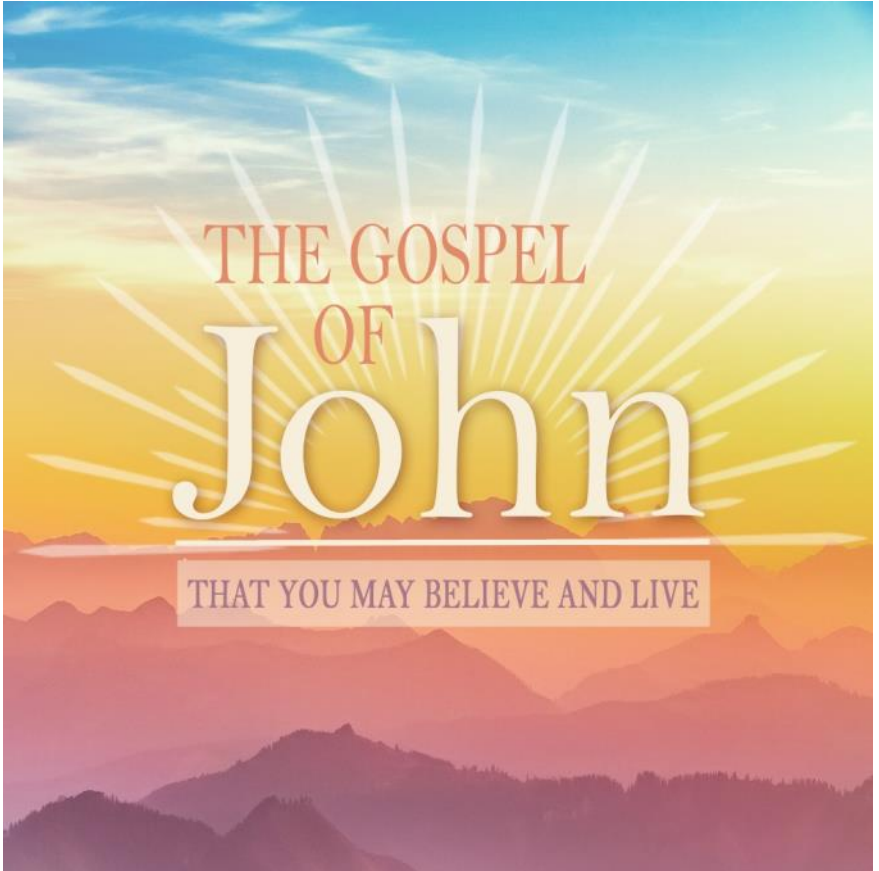




Ascension PCA

March 10, 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

The gospel is so foolish (*according to my natural wisdom*),
so scandalous (*according to my conscience*),
and so incredible (*according to my timid heart*),
that it is a daily battle to believe the full scope of it as I should.

There is simply no other way to compete with
the forebodings of my conscience,
the condemnings of my heart,
and the lies of the world and the Devil
than to overwhelm such things with
the daily rehearsings of the gospel.

*"Holy Trinity, continue to teach me that Christ's righteousness
satisfies justice and evidences Thy love;
help me to make use of it by faith as the ground of my peace
and of Thy favor and acceptance,
so that I may live always near the cross."
(from The Valley of Vision)*

~ Milton Vincent

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!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Revelation 15:3-4

M: And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God,
and the song of the Lamb, saying,

**P: Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God Almighty!
Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship You,
for Your righteous acts have been revealed.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Behold Our God

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

**Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore ...
Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him!**

Words and music by
Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)
© 2011 Sovereign Grace 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

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 73:1-28

Elder Brett Chase

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
- 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
- 3 For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- 4 For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.
- 5 They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.
- 7 Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
- 8 They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.
- 9 They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.
- 10 Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.
- 11 And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
- 12 Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
- 13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
- 14 For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.
- 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.

16 But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
17 until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.
18 Truly You set them in slippery places;
You make them fall to ruin.
19 How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
20 Like a dream when one awakes,
O LORD, when You rouse yourself,
You despise them as phantoms.
21 When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
22 I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward You.
23 Nevertheless, I am continually with You;
You hold my right hand.
24 You guide me with Your counsel,
and afterward You will receive me to glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but You?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
27 For behold, those who are far from You shall perish;
You put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to You.
28 But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the LORD GOD my refuge,
that I may tell of all Your works.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
who of Your great mercy has promised
forgiveness of sins to those
who with repentance and true faith turn to You:
have mercy on us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Colossians 1:11-14

- L: May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Living Waters

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
rest beside these living waters.**

**Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.**

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.*

**Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters.
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.**

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.*

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless.
Christ, He is our living waters.**

***There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.***

Words and music by Ed Cash and Kristyn Getty.
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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 12:27-36

²⁷ "Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not Mine."

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself." ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die. ³⁴ So the crowd answered Him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can You say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵ So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

When Jesus had said these things, He departed and hid Himself from them.

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

"The Glory of God"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

Matthew 6:31–33

“Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Words by Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1923).

Music by William Marion Runyan (1923).

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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

from Hebrews 9 & 10

M: For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that He has died as a ransom to set them free.

P: Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience, and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

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.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

There is One Gospel

**There is one Gospel on which I stand
for all eternity.**

**It is my story, my Father's plan.
The Son has rescued me.**

**Oh what a Gospel, oh what a peace.
My highest joy and my deepest need.
Now and forever, He is my light.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel to which I cling,
all else I count as loss.
For there, where justice and mercy meet,
He saved me on the cross.**

**No more I boast in what I can bring,
no more I carry the weight of sin.
For He has brought me from death to life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel where hope is found,
the empty tomb still speaks.
For death could not keep my Saviour down,
He lives and I am free.**

**Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,
my life is His and His hope is mine.
For He has promised I too will rise.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And in this Gospel, the church is one,
we do not walk alone.
We have His Spirit as we press on
to lead us safely home.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

**Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

PRAYER

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

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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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