



Ascension PCA

March 24, 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

In an upstairs room, a parable
is just about to come alive.
And while they bicker about who's best,
with a painful glance, He'll silently rise.
Their Savior Servant must show them how,
through the will of the water
and the tenderness of the towel.
And the space between ourselves sometimes
is more than the distance between the stars.
By the fragile bridge of the Servant's bow
we take up the basin and the towel.

~ Michael Card

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

M: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

**P: Great is His power
and of His wisdom there is no end.**

M: Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion,
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King comes to you
gentle and riding on a donkey.

**P: He shall have dominion from sea to sea
and from the river unto the ends of the earth.
All nations will be blessed through Him
and they shall call Him blessed.**

M: All kings will bow down to Him
and all nations will serve Him.
For He will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.

**P: He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in His sight.**

M: Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds.

**P: Praise be to His glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with His glory.**

M: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

P: Hosanna in the highest!

SONGS OF PRAISE

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

**All glory, laud and honor,
to You, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the King of Israel,
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's Name coming,
the King and Blessed One!**

**The company of angels
is praising You on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.**

**The people of the Hebrews
with palms before You went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before You we present.**

**To You, before Your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to You, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.**

**As You received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring;
for You delight in goodness
O good and gracious King!**

Words by Theodulf, Bishop of Orléans (ca. 820);
Translated by John Mason Neale (1851; alt.)
Music by Melchior Teschner (ca. 1615)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 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 75:1-10

Elder C.J. DeGroot

- 1 We give thanks to You, O God;
we give thanks, for Your name is near.
We recount Your wondrous deeds.
- 2 "At the set time that I appoint
I will judge with equity.
- 3 When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants,
it is I who keep steady its pillars.
- 4 I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,'
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn;
do not lift up your horn on high,
or speak with haughty neck.'"
- 6 For not from the east or from the west
and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,
7 but it is God who executes judgment,
putting down one and lifting up another.
- 8 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup
with foaming wine, well mixed,
and He pours out from it,
and all the wicked of the earth
shall drain it down to the dregs.

Selah

- 9 But I will declare it forever;
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
- 10 All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,
but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O God, our Father, forgive us for our many sins.
Like our first parents, we are easily captivated
by the objects that our eyes desire.
You have given us Your most cherished treasure,
yet we prize many other things more highly
than Christ.**

Forgive us, Lord.

**Jesus, You are our strong salvation.
Thank you for invading our world
to rescue us from ourselves.**

**We cannot fathom the humility, love,
and commitment to Your Father's glory,
which led You to give up heaven for us.**

We are eternally grateful.

**Holy Spirit, fill us with everlasting wonder
that the gospel is true.**

**When we are tempted to sin, remind us of Jesus,
who kept Your laws for us
and died the death we deserve,
and fix our eyes on Him.**

In His 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.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call upon Him while He is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD,
that He may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

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 13:1-17

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. ⁵ Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, "Not all of you are clean."
¹² When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do 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

"Loved to Death"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 33:20

Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and shield.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

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.
Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available from the trays.
Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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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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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 on the back page.

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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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