



Ascension PCA

March 31, 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 resurrection of Jesus Christ actually happened, but this is not a historical fact like all others.

Whether I do or don't believe that Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon in 49 AD, doesn't change my life.

Belief in the historicity of the resurrection, however, can change you wholly — but not through intellectual assent alone.

It is only by meeting the risen Lord personally and uniting with Him by faith that we are changed.

Only then can we truly experience the powerful "hope to which He has called you" (Ephesians 1:18).

~ Tim Keller

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 Matthew 28

M: After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

**P: There was a violent earthquake,
for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and,
going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.**

M: His appearance was like lightning,
and his clothes were white as snow.
The guards were so afraid of him that they shook
and became like dead men.

**P: The angel said to the women,
“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus,
who was crucified.”**

M: “He is not here; He is risen, just as He said.”

P: He is not here; He is risen! Hallelujah!

M: Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed!

M: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. *(1 Cor 15:20)*

**P: Praise be to the LORD,
for He has showed His wonderful love to us!** *(Psalm 31:21)*

**ALL: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him the glory!**
(Rev 19:6-7)

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come, People of the Risen King

**Come, people of the risen King,
who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
to the Morning Star of grace.**

From the shifting shadows of the earth
we will lift our eyes to Him,
where steady arms of mercy reach
to gather children in.

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
and those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
and those struggling in the fight.

For His perfect love will never change,
and His mercies never cease,
but follow us through all our days
with the certain hope of peace.

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Come, young and old from every land,
men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
find the riches of His grace.

Over all the world, His people sing,
shore to shore we hear them call
the Truth that cries through every age:
our God is all in all!

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.
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Christ the Lord is Risen Today

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today,"	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Sons of men and angels say;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Raise your joys and triumphs high;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.	<i>Alleluia!</i>

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Christ has burst the gates of hell;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Death in vain forbids His rise;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Christ has opened paradise.	<i>Alleluia!</i>

**Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died, our souls to save;
Where thy victory, O grave?**

***Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!***

**Soar we now where Christ has led,
Foll'wing our exalted Head;
Made like Him, like Him we rise:
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

***Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1739). Music from *Lyra Davidica* (1708; alt.)
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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING CALL TO CONFESSION

Matthew 22:36–39

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”
And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Heavenly Father, Your Son died
and was raised up in power.
Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance
so we may rise to new life in Him.
We confess to You:
Lord, though You should guide us,
we seek to find our own way;
though You should rule us,
we live according to ourselves;
though You should fulfill us,
we seek what can't satisfy.**

Merciful God, forgive us.

**Holy Spirit, heal our confused minds with Your word,
heal our troubled consciences with Your love,
heal our anxious hearts with Your presence,
all for the sake of Your Son,
who loved us and gave Himself for us. 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

from Romans 4:24-25

God accounts all sinners who confess the Name of Christ
and believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead
as sinless. He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.
In Him our sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

**And can it be that I should gain
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me?**

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

**He left His Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite His grace.
Humbled Himself, so great His love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.**

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825).
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

Psalms 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.
- 2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from You."
- 3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.
- 4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall
multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.

- 5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
You hold my lot.
- 6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
- 7 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me;
because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.
- 10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let Your holy one see corruption.
- 11 You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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

"Hope in Uncertain Times"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

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.**

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 1 Corinthians 15 & Heidelberg Catechism Q45

- M: If Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.
- P: If only for this life we have hope in Christ,
we are to be pitied more than all men.**
- M: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.
- P: For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be made alive.
But each in his own turn:
Christ, the firstfruits;
then, when he comes,
those who belong to him.**
- Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- M: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?
- P: First, by His resurrection He has overcome death,
so that He might make us share in the righteousness
He won for us by His death.
Second, by His power we too are already resurrected
to a new life.
Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee
of our glorious resurrection.**

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

The Power of the Cross

**Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day.
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.**

**Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,
crowning Your bloodstained brow.**

*This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
we stand forgiven at the cross.*

**Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.**

*This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
we stand forgiven at the cross.*

**Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
won through Your selfless love!**

*This the pow'r of the cross;
Son of God — slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross!*

Words and 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
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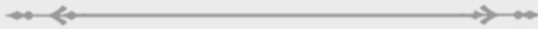
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

10:00AM: Worship Service (in-person & livestream)

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