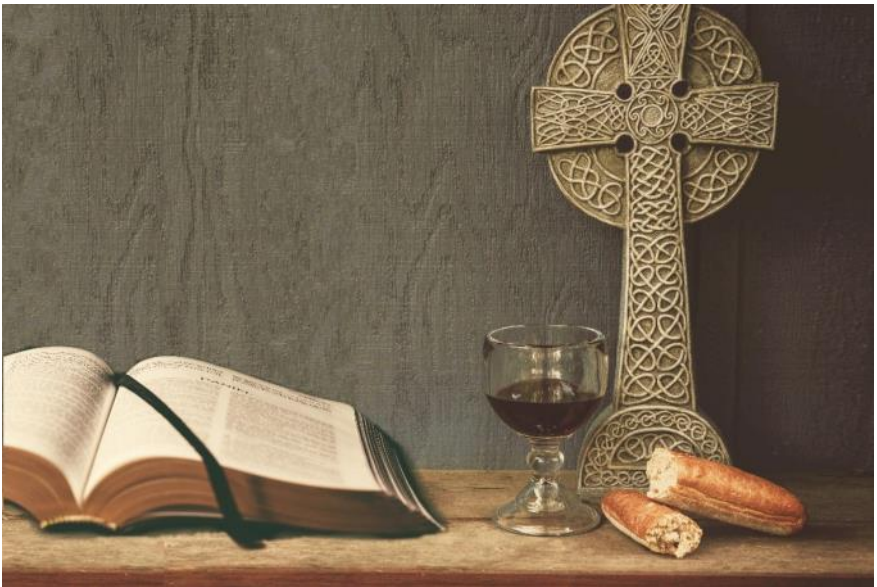




# Ascension PCA

April 14, 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

If today you feel that sin is hateful to you, believe in Him who has said, ***"It is finished."***

Let me link your hand in mine.

Let us come together, both of us, and say,

"Here are two poor naked souls, good Lord; we cannot clothe ourselves,"

and He will give us a robe, for "it is finished." ...

"But must we not add our tears to it?"

***"No,"*** says He, ***"No, it is finished, there is enough."***

***Child of God, will you have Christ's finished righteousness this morning, and will you rejoice in it more than you ever have before?***

~ by Charles Spurgeon

# 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

*Jeremiah 10:6-7*

There is none like You, O LORD;  
You are great, and Your name is great in might.  
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?  
For this is Your due;  
for among all the wise ones of the nations  
and in all their kingdoms  
there is none like You.

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*O Worship the King*

**O worship the King, all glorious above,  
and gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love!  
While angels delight to worship above.  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words by Robert Grant (1833)

Music by Johann M. Haydn (1737-1806), arr. William Gardiner (1815)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Glorious and Mighty*

**Majesty, Your glory is shining  
brighter than the moon and the stars.  
Marveling, we honor and fear You  
above all gods.**

***Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty.  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens,  
Your decrees can never be changed.  
Over all the plans of the nations,  
Your judgments reign.**

***Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty.  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation  
when You come again in the clouds.  
Every knee will bow down and worship  
the one true God.**

***Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty.  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
greatly to be praised!***

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining.  
Music by Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining.  
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## **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 77:1-20*

*Elder Brett Chase*

- 1 I cry aloud to God,  
aloud to God, and He will hear me.
- 2 In the day of my trouble I seek the LORD;  
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;  
my soul refuses to be comforted.
- 3 When I remember God, I moan;  
when I meditate, my spirit faints. *Selah*
- 4 You hold my eyelids open;  
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
- 5 I consider the days of old,  
the years long ago.
- 6 I said, "Let me remember my song in the night;  
let me meditate in my heart."  
Then my spirit made a diligent search:
- 7 "Will the LORD spurn forever,  
and never again be favorable?
- 8 Has His steadfast love forever ceased?  
Are His promises at an end for all time?
- 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious?  
Has He in anger shut up His compassion?" *Selah*
- 10 Then I said, "I will appeal to this,  
to the years of the right hand of the Most High."
- 11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD;  
yes, I will remember Your wonders of old.
- 12 I will ponder all Your work,  
and meditate on Your mighty deeds.
- 13 Your way, O God, is holy.  
What god is great like our God?
- 14 You are the God who works wonders;  
You have made known Your might among the peoples.
- 15 You with your arm redeemed Your people,  
the children of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah*
- 16 When the waters saw You, O God,  
when the waters saw You, they were afraid;  
indeed, the deep trembled.
- 17 The clouds poured out water;  
the skies gave forth thunder;  
Your arrows flashed on every side.
- 18 The crash of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;  
Your lightnings lighted up the world;  
the earth trembled and shook.

- 19 Your way was through the sea,  
Your path through the great waters;  
yet Your footprints were unseen.
- 20 You led Your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Lord, You have promised to deliver us;  
and have purchased our salvation through Jesus.  
You have promised to restore and guide us;  
and have given us Your Spirit as our Counselor  
and Your Word as our instruction.  
You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us —  
to be more faithful than a mother to her child...  
Yet we have failed to trust You.  
We have grumbled at every hardship.  
We have pursued material needs,  
as if we had no Father.  
We have busied ourselves with things of this world,  
while neglecting your treasures entrusted to our care.  
We have lived as if You would never call us to account  
for our stewardship of that which belongs to You.  
Lord, have mercy on us;  
forgive our faithless striving;  
forgive our unfaithful neglect.  
Renew in us a desire to be true to You,  
and diligence for the long faithfulness.  
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 John 1:8-9*

If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Before the Throne of God Above*

**Before the throne of God above**

**I have a strong and perfect plea:  
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"  
who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,  
my name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
no tongue can bid me thence depart;  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,  
and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see Him there,  
who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Savior died  
my sinful soul is counted free,  
for God, the Just, is satisfied  
to look on Him and pardon me,  
to look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,  
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
the great unchangeable I AM,  
the King of Glory and of Grace.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,  
my soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God;  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,  
my soul is purchased by His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God;  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997).  
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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

### *Deuteronomy 8*

<sup>1</sup> "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. <sup>2</sup> And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

<sup>3</sup> And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. <sup>6</sup> So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in His ways and by fearing Him. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup> And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.

<sup>11</sup> Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His rules and His statutes, which I command you today, <sup>12</sup> lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup> then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup> who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, <sup>16</sup> who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. <sup>17</sup> Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' <sup>18</sup> You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power

to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. <sup>19</sup> And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. <sup>20</sup> Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God."

## 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

*"Man Does Not Live by Bread Alone"*

*Mr. Philip Suh*

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Colossians 3:1-2*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

## SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

**Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.  
Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing stream does flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through;  
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,  
be Thou still my strength and shield,  
be Thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.**

Welsh hymn: words by William Williams (1745);  
stanza 1 translated by Peter Williams (1771),  
stanza 2-3 translated by William Williams (1772)  
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.*

## SONG OF MEDITATION

*Take My Life and Let it Be*

**Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for Thee,  
swift and beautiful for Thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from Thee,  
filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for Thee,  
ever, only, all for Thee.**

Words by Frances R. Havergal (1874)  
Music by Henri A. César Malan (1827)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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

***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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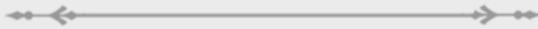
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## ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

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

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