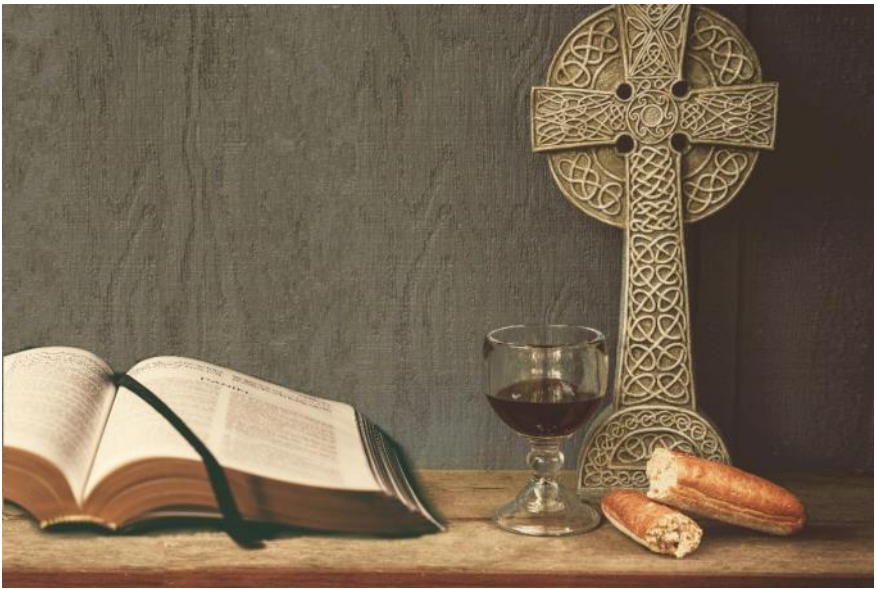




Ascension PCA

April 21, 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

Jesus is no longer visible upon earth;
but He has promised His spiritual presence
to abide with His word, ordinances, and people,
to the end of time.

Wearied and heavy laden souls have now no need
to take a long journey to seek Him,
but He is always near them,
and in a spiritual manner, where His Gospel is preached. ...

Therefore, come unto Him.

That is, raise your hearts,
and breathe forth your complaints to Him. ...

He is just such a Savior as your circumstances require,
as you yourself could wish for.

~ by John Newton

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

1 Peter 1:3-5

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade —
kept in heaven for you,
who through faith are shielded by God's power
until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed
in the last time.

P: In this we greatly rejoice!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

Words by Walter Chambers Smith (1867).
Traditional Welsh hymn melody.
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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Almighty God,

**You have called us to be the church,
to continue the mission of Jesus Christ
to our lonely, confused, and broken world.**

**Yet we acknowledge
we are more apathetic than active,
isolated than involved,
callous than compassionate,
obstinate than obedient,
legalistic than loving.**

Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.

**Remove the obstacles that prevent us
from being light in this dark world.**

**Awaken our hearts to the promised gift
of Your indwelling Spirit.**

This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. 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

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.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

**Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

**Unto the grave, what will we sing?
"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

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

Psalm 65

- 1 Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion,
and to You shall vows be performed.
- 2 O You who hear prayer,
to You shall all flesh come.
- 3 When iniquities prevail against me,
You atone for our transgressions.
- 4 Blessed is the one You choose and bring near,
to dwell in Your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,
the holiness of Your temple!

5 By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;
6 the one who by His strength established the mountains,
being girded with might;
7 who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples,
8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth
are in awe at Your signs.
You make the going out of the morning and the evening
to shout for joy.
9 You visit the earth and water it;
You greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
You provide their grain,
for so You have prepared it.
10 You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
11 You crown the year with your bounty;
Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

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 Enduring Glory of the Church"

Reverend Mike Kelly

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Chronicles 29:14b

All things come from You, and of Your own have we given You.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

Rejoice!

**Great is the Lord, for His mighty name,
and His righteousness never fail.
Earth, wind, and sea show His glorious works
and the universe declares His majesty.**

**Great is His Word and His faithfulness
for His truth and wisdom is sure.
Precious His law, making pathways clear,
and His presence draws His wandering people near.**

Come lift your voice.

Let us rejoice.

Sing of His mercy and love!

*Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.*

**Great is His love, and His mercy good,
by His grace our hearts are made new.
He shed His blood that atoned for sin,
giving life through death and resurrection.**

Come lift your voice.

Let us rejoice.

Sing of His mercy and love!

*Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.*

**We bow before You.
Your throne we come to.
We humbly seek you, so
come and lift your voice.
Sing of His mercy and love!**

*Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.*

Words by Jonathan, Janelle, and Elanor Eck (2024).
Music by Jonathan Eck (2024).
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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

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 21–23

M: What is true faith?

P: True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction that everything God reveals in His Word is true; it is also a deep-rooted assurance, created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, not only others, but I too, have had my sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.

M: What then must a Christian believe?

P: Everything God promises us in the gospel. That gospel is summarized for us in the articles of our Christian faith — a creed beyond doubt, and confessed through the world.

M: What are these articles?

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, 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.
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

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,
unbar the way to heaven's crown.**

**O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
when will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
we grope in gloom and dark of night.**

**Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh come, lead us, with mighty hand
through exile to the promised land.**

**There shall we all our praises bring
ever to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore,
forever and forever more.
forever and forever more.
forever and forever more.**

Words by Friedrich von Spee (1622);
translated by Martin L. Seltz (1969).
Music by Nathan Partain (2003).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music © 2003 UBP: Partain, Nathan.

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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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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

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