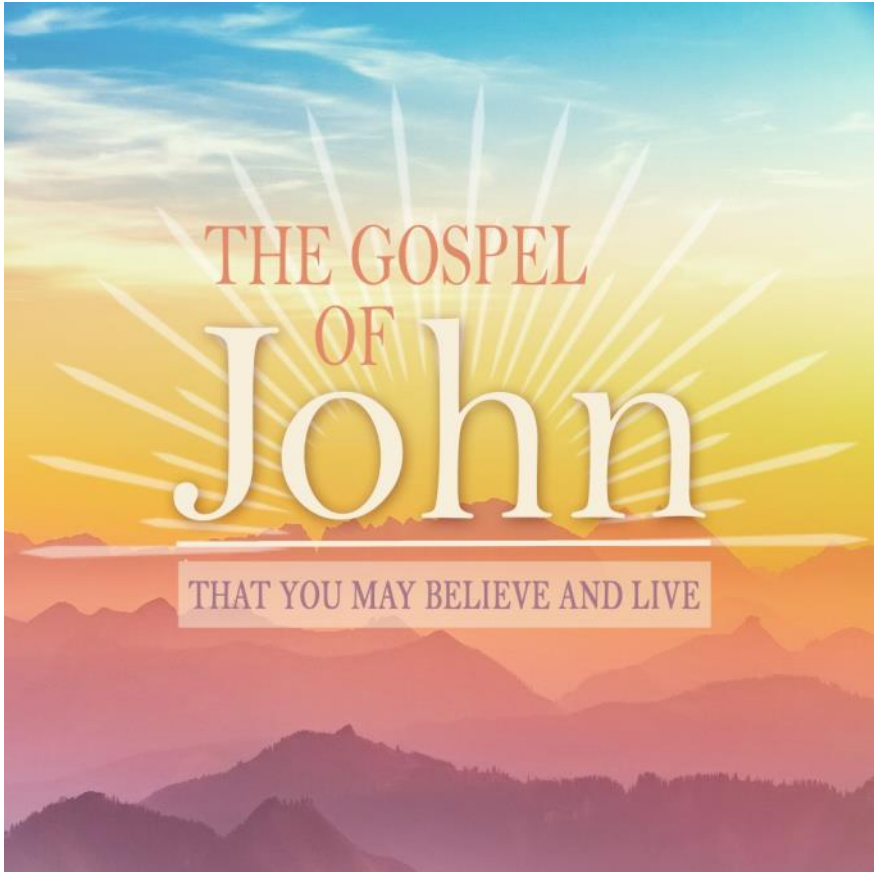




Ascension PCA

May 5, 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

“Follow thou Me. I am the way and the truth and the life.

Without the way there is no going;
without the truth there is no knowing;
without the life there is no living.

I am the way which thou must follow;
the truth which thou must believe;
the life for which thou must hope.

I am the inviolable way; the infallible truth, the never-ending life.
I am the straightest way; the sovereign truth;
life true, life blessed, life uncreated.”

~ by *Thomas à Kempis*

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 *(in unison)*

**P: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Triune God,
we praise You, we worship You, we adore You.
You hold the heavens in Your hand;
all stars rejoice in Your glory.
You come in the sunrise and the song of morn
and bless the splendor of the noonday.
The stars in their courses magnify You;
day and night tell of Your glory.
Your peace blows over the earth,
and the breath of Your mouth fills all space.
Your voice comes in the thunder of the storm;
the song of the wind whispers of Your majesty.
You satisfy all things living with Your abundance,
and our hearts bow at Your presence.
Accept us we pray, for we are Your children,
adopted through Jesus.
Hear our prayers, receive our praise,
glorify Yourself, and build Your church. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 99:1-3 & 1 Timothy 1:17

**M: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The LORD is great in Zion;
He is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise Your great and awesome name!
Holy is He!**

**P: To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

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.***

This Is Our God

**God our Father, full of power,
Maker of the heavens, Maker of the world;
forming all things, seen and unseen,
truly the Almighty, beyond all measure worth;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,
born unto a virgin, lived a perfect life;
greatly suffered, dying for us.
From the grave He's risen, seated now on high;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,
speaking through the prophets,
empowering the Church;
life is given by and through Him,
with the Son and Father, worshipped and adored;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

Words and music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce,
Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones (2015).

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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 78:21-55

Elder Chris Sledge

- 21 Therefore, when the LORD heard, He was full of wrath;
a fire was kindled against Jacob;
His anger rose against Israel,
22 because they did not believe in God
and did not trust His saving power.
23 Yet He commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of heaven,
24 and He rained down on them manna to eat
and gave them the grain of heaven.
25 Man ate of the bread of the angels;
He sent them food in abundance.
26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
and by His power He led out the south wind;
27 He rained meat on them like dust,
winged birds like the sand of the seas;
28 He let them fall in the midst of their camp,
all around their dwellings.
29 And they ate and were well filled,
for He gave them what they craved.
30 But before they had satisfied their craving,
while the food was still in their mouths,
31 the anger of God rose against them,
and He killed the strongest of them
and laid low the young men of Israel.
32 In spite of all this, they still sinned;
despite His wonders, they did not believe.
33 So He made their days vanish like a breath,
and their years in terror.
34 When He killed them, they sought Him;
they repented and sought God earnestly.
35 They remembered that God was their rock,
the Most High God their redeemer.
36 But they flattered Him with their mouths;
they lied to Him with their tongues.
37 Their heart was not steadfast toward Him;
they were not faithful to His covenant.
38 Yet He, being compassionate,
atoned for their iniquity
and did not destroy them;
He restrained His anger often
and did not stir up all His wrath.
39 He remembered that they were but flesh,
a wind that passes and comes not again.

40 How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness
and grieved Him in the desert!
41 They tested God again and again
and provoked the Holy One of Israel.
42 They did not remember His power
or the day when He redeemed them from the foe,
43 when He performed His signs in Egypt
and His marvels in the fields of Zoan.
44 He turned their rivers to blood,
so that they could not drink of their streams.
45 He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them,
and frogs, which destroyed them.
46 He gave their crops to the destroying locust
and the fruit of their labor to the locust.
47 He destroyed their vines with hail
and their sycamores with frost.
48 He gave over their cattle to the hail
and their flocks to thunderbolts.
49 He let loose on them His burning anger,
wrath, indignation, and distress,
a company of destroying angels.
50 He made a path for His anger;
He did not spare them from death,
but gave their lives over to the plague.
51 He struck down every firstborn in Egypt,
the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.
52 Then He led out His people like sheep
and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.
53 He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid,
but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.
54 And He brought them to His holy land,
to the mountain which His right hand had won.
55 He drove out nations before them;
He apportioned them for a possession
and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

based on the Ten Commandments

M: O LORD, our God who brought His people out of Egypt,
out of the land of slavery
and by Christ delivered us from sin,
You have been faithful to keep all the promises
of Your covenant.

**P: But we, O LORD, have not been faithful.
We have loved other gods before You
and become their servants.
We have not worshipped You in spirit and in truth,
and so we have mocked Your glory in heaven.
We have used Your name in vain
and profaned Your reputation on earth.
We have not trusted You to give us rest.
We have not honored our fathers and mothers.
We have hated our neighbors
and murdered them in our hearts.
We have made adulterers of ourselves
in the lust of our eyes or in the deeds of our flesh.
We have stolen honor and wealth and privileges
that are not ours.
We have lied and falsely accused
for we have loved gossip.
We have coveted blessings You wisely and righteously
gave to others.
O LORD, have mercy on us
for we have not kept Your law.**

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 Revelation 1:5-6

**L: Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins
by His blood, He has made us to be a kingdom
and priests to serve His God and Father.**

**P: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain...
Thanks be to God!**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee;
let the water and the blood,
from Thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands
can fulfil Thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to Thy cross I cling;
naked, come to Thee for dress;
helpless, look to Thee for grace;
foul, I to the Fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776);
altered by Thomas Cotterill (1815).
Music by Thomas Hastings (1830).
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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

(ending with the Lord's prayer in unison)

**P: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever, Amen.**

READING OF THE WORD

John 14:15-31

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words. And the word that you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

²⁵ These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

²⁸ You heard Me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on Me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here."

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 Promise of His Presence"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 33:20-21

Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in Him,
because we trust in His holy name.

Today is the monthly offering for our Deacon Fund and Mercy Ministries.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
'till Thy mercy's beams I see;
'Till Thy inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.
More and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Luke Morton (2012).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

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 Acts 13

P: From David's descendants, God brought to Israel the Savior, Jesus, just as He promised.

The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning Him they fulfilled the words of the prophets.

Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have Him executed. When they had carried out all that was written about Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.

But God raised Him from the dead and for many days He was seen by those who had traveled with Him.

What God promised our fathers He has fulfilled for us their children, by raising up Jesus.

Therefore, through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you!

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

I Delight (Isaiah 61:10)

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**As a bridegroom adorns
his head like a priest,
As a bride adorns her head with jewels...**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

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

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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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