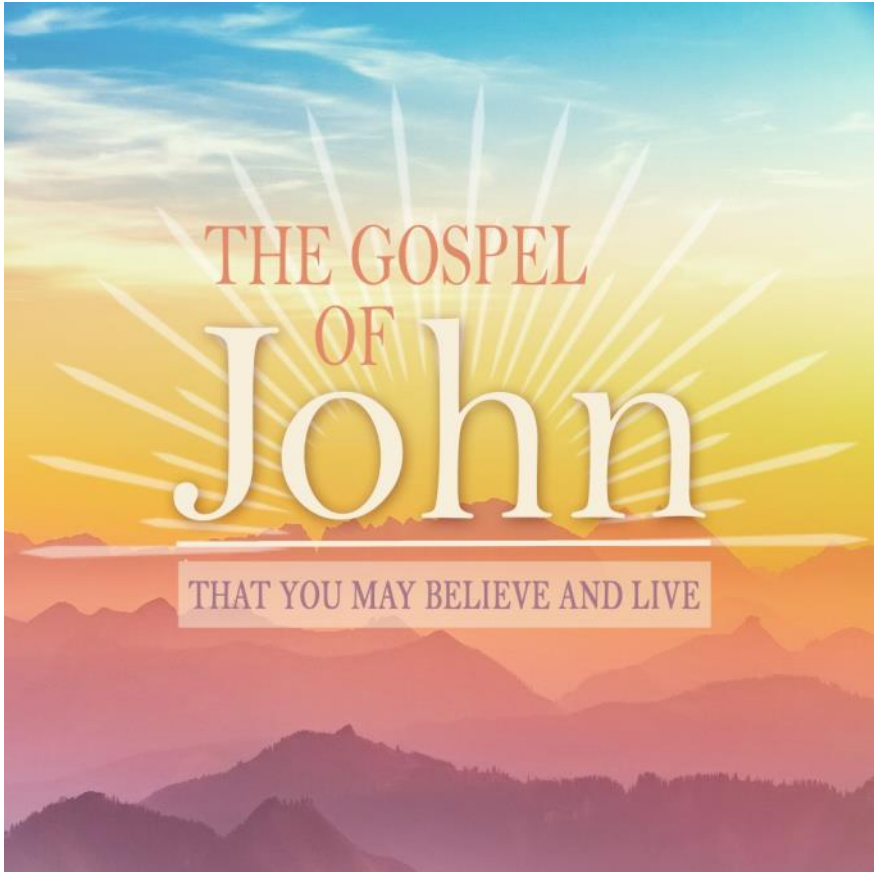




Ascension PCA

July 7, 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**

O God, let me not seek apart from You  
what I can only find in You,  
peace and rest, and joy and bliss.  
Lift up my soul above the weary round of harassing thoughts  
to Your eternal presence,  
to the pure, serene, radiant atmosphere of Your presence,  
that there I may breathe freely,  
there repose in Your love,  
there be at rest from myself,  
and from all things which weary me;  
and from there return, arrayed with Your peace,  
to do and to bear whatsoever shall please You.

*~ E.B. Pusey*

# 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!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*1 Kings 8:23, 56-58*

M: O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like You  
in heaven above or on earth beneath,  
keeping covenant and steadfast love for Your servants  
who walk before You with all their heart.  
Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel  
according to all that He promised;  
not one word has failed of all His good promise,  
which He spoke through His servant Moses.

**P: The LORD our God be with us,  
as He was with our ancestors;  
may He not leave us or abandon us,  
but incline our hearts to Him,  
to walk in all His ways,  
and to keep His commandments,  
His statutes, and His ordinances,  
which He commanded our ancestors.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Psalms 145:1-7*

**I will Thee praise, my God, O King,  
and I will ever bless Thy Name;  
I will extol Thee everyday  
and evermore Thy praise proclaim.**

**The LORD is great, His praise exceeds;  
His greatness fully search can none;  
Race shall to race extol Thy deeds  
and tell Thy mighty acts each one.**

**Upon Thy glorious majesty  
and wondrous works my mind shall dwell;  
Men shall recount Thy dreadful acts,  
and of Thy greatness I will tell.**

Words from Psalm 145:1-7, *Trinity Psalter* (1994).  
Music by John Hatton (1793).  
© 1994 Crown & Covenant Publications.

*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 up 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 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 86*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

- 1 Incline Your ear, O LORD, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.
- 2 Preserve my life, for I am godly;  
save Your servant, who trusts in You — You are my God.
- 3 Be gracious to me, O LORD,  
for to You do I cry all the day.
- 4 Gladden the soul of Your servant,  
for to you, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.
- 6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;  
listen to my plea for grace.
- 7 In the day of my trouble I call upon You,  
for You answer me.
- 8 There is none like You among the gods, O LORD,  
nor are there any works like Yours.
- 9 All the nations You have made shall come  
and worship before you, O LORD,  
and shall glorify Your name.
- 10 For You are great and do wondrous things;  
You alone are God.
- 11 Teach me Your way, O LORD,  
that I may walk in Your truth;  
unite my heart to fear Your name.
- 12 I give thanks to You, O LORD my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify Your name forever.
- 13 For great is Your steadfast love toward me;  
You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- 14 O God, insolent men have risen up against me;  
a band of ruthless men seeks my life,  
and they do not set You before them.
- 15 But you, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love  
and faithfulness.

- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me;  
give Your strength to Your servant,  
and save the son of Your maidservant.
- 17 Show me a sign of Your favor,  
that those who hate me may see and be put to shame  
because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Faithful Triune God,  
we come to You today as deeply forgetful people.**

**While You have faithfully fulfilled Your commitment  
to us in Christ,  
we have quickly forgotten all the gifts  
You have given us.  
Instead of remembering You and running to You daily  
as the anchor of our souls,  
we prefer to remain enslaved to our idols.  
We doubt Your goodness and power daily,  
and resent the race of obedience that You call us to run.  
Father, forgive us.**

**Jesus, thank You for your unwavering faith  
and hope in the Father,  
for Your submission and trust in Him  
throughout Your life.  
Your obedience is our standing and encouragement.  
We have no other hope, nor do we need one.**

**Holy Spirit, we need Your power at work in us  
to stir up our hope.  
Help us to know and worship God as He is,  
to know the certainty of His love for us.**

**Hear us, forgive us, transform us, 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.*

## THE GOOD NEWS

**L: Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Glory to God! Amen.**

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

### *Light of the World*

**Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven,  
brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky.  
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness,  
shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.**

**Light of the World, from the beginning  
the tragedies of time were no match for Your love.  
From great heights of glory, You saw my story.  
God, You entered in and became one of us.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,  
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

**Light of the world, crown in a manger,  
born for the cross, to suffer, to save.  
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer.  
We are the richer by the price that He paid.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,  
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

**Light of the World, soon will be coming.  
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.  
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory,  
and there He shall reign forevermore.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,  
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

Words & music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash,  
Martin Cash, Scott Cash

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Publishing Designee; We The Kingdom Music

## 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

### READING OF THE WORD

*John 18:1-14*

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup> They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> So He asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one." <sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?"

<sup>12</sup> So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. <sup>13</sup> First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

### 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

*"Glory in the Garden"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

### PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

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

*Proverbs 11:25*

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,  
and one who waters will himself be watered.

## SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

*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 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

*When Peace Like a River*

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."**

*It is well, (it is well)  
with my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed His own blood for my soul.**

*It is well, (it is well)  
with my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**My sin — O the bliss of this glorious thought! —  
my sin — not in part, but the whole —  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

*It is well (it is well),  
with my soul; (with my soul);  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.**

*It is well, (it is well)  
with my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*It is well, (it is well)  
with my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Words by Horatio Gates Spafford (1873). Music by Philip P. Bliss (1876)  
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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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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