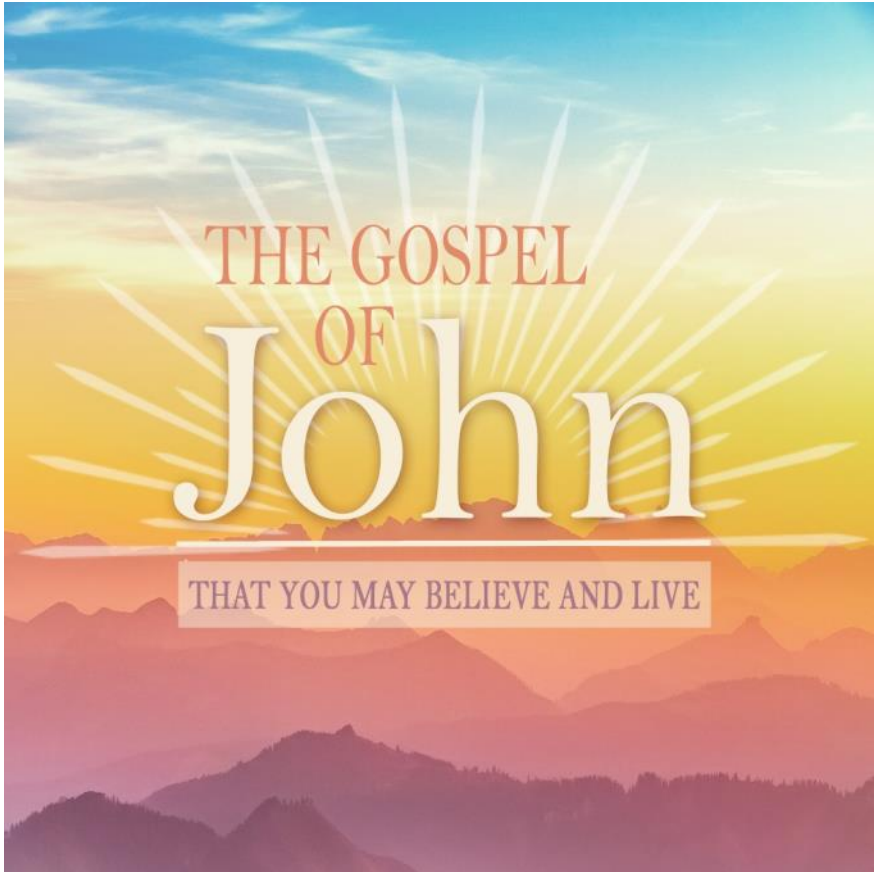




Ascension PCA

July 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**

Every time we look at the cross, Christ seems to say to us,  
"I am here because of you.

It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering,  
your debt I am paying, your death I am dying."

Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size  
like the cross.

All of us have inflated views of ourselves,  
especially in self-righteousness,  
until we have visited a place called Calvary.

It is there, at the foot of the cross,  
that we shrink to our true size.

*~ John Stott*

# 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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Jeremiah 10:6-7*

M: No one is like You, O LORD;  
You are great,  
and Your name is mighty 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

*Holy, Holy, Holy!*

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning**

**our song shall rise to Thee.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea.**

**Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man**

**Thy glory may not see.**

**Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
in earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

*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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Psalm 87*

*Elder Philip Suh*

- 1 On the holy mount stands the city He founded;  
2 the LORD loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.  
3 Glorious things of you are spoken,  
O city of God. *Selah*
- 4 Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon;  
behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush —  
"This one was born there," they say.  
5 And of Zion it shall be said,  
"This one and that one were born in her";  
for the Most High Himself will establish her.  
6 The LORD records as He registers the peoples,  
"This one was born there." *Selah*
- 7 Singers and dancers alike say,  
"All my springs are in you."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Great and merciful Father,  
all Your lovingkindness is in Your Son.  
I bring Him to You in the arms of faith,  
I urge His saving name as the One who died for me,  
I plead His blood to pay for my debts of wrong.  
Accept His worthiness for my unworthiness  
His sinlessness for my transgression,  
His purity for my uncleanness,  
His truth for my deceits,  
His meekness for my pride,  
His constancy for my backslidings,  
His love for my enmity,  
His fullness for my emptiness,**

**His faithfulness for my treachery,  
His obedience for my lawlessness,  
His glory for my shame,  
His devotedness for my waywardness,  
His holy life for my unchaste ways,  
His righteousness for my dead works,  
His death for my life. 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 FORGIVENESS

*adapted from Romans 5:8 and Hebrews 4:16*

The proof of God's amazing love is this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us  
in our time of need.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

**Man of Sorrows! What a name  
for the Son of God, who came  
ruined sinners to reclaim:  
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

**Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
in my place condemned He stood,  
sealed my pardon with His blood:  
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

**Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;  
spotless Lamb of God was He;  
full atonement! Can it be?  
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

**Lifted up was He to die,  
"It is finished!" was His cry:  
now in heav'n exalted high:  
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

**When He comes, our glorious King,  
all His ransomed home to bring,  
then anew this song we'll sing:  
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!***

Words and music by Philip P. Bliss (1875).  
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

*John 18:13–27*

<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.

<sup>15</sup> Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup> but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." <sup>18</sup> Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup> The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said." <sup>22</sup> When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?"

<sup>24</sup> Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.



<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." <sup>26</sup> One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" <sup>27</sup> Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

## 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

*"A Tale of Two Trials"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Hebrews 13:16*

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*All I Have Is Christ*

**I once was lost in darkest night,  
yet thought I knew the way;  
the sin that promised joy and life  
had led me to the grave.**

**I had no hope that You would own,  
a rebel to Your will,  
and if You had not loved me first,  
I would refuse You still.**

**But as I ran my hell-bound race,  
indifferent to the cost,  
You looked upon my helpless state  
and led me to the cross.**

**And I beheld God's love displayed,  
You suffered in my place,  
You bore the wrath reserved for me,  
now all I know is grace!**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

**Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone,  
and live so all might see  
the strength to follow Your commands  
could never come from me.**

**Oh Father use my ransomed life  
in any way You choose,  
and let my song forever be:  
my only boast is You.**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!  
Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

# 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

*Adapted from Ephesians 2:1-10*

**P: We were dead in our transgressions and sins,  
in which we used to live  
when we followed the ways of this world,  
of the ruler of the kingdom of the air,  
the spirit who is now at work  
in those who are disobedient.**

**All of us lived among them at one time,  
gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature  
and following its desires and thoughts.  
Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.**

**But because of His great love for us,  
God, who is rich in mercy,  
made us alive with Christ  
even when we were dead in transgressions.  
It is by grace we have been saved.**

**And God raised us up with Christ  
and seated us with Him  
in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,  
in order that in the coming ages  
He might show the incomparable riches  
of His grace,  
expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

**For it is by grace we have been saved,  
through faith —  
and this not from ourselves,  
it is the gift of God —**

**It is not by works. None of us can boast.  
For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

## 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

*As A Beggar I Come To Thee*

**As a beggar, I come to Thee.  
As a beggar, I come to Thee.  
With empty hands, without one plea.  
As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**At Thy table I find a feast.  
At Thy table I find a feast.  
Here come the poor, the lame, the least.  
At Thy table I find a feast.**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?  
Precious Savior, how can it be?  
Thine own dear blood was shed for me!  
Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.  
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.  
Long I to see Thy kingdom come.  
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!  
With lifted hearts our prayer is sung:  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!  
With lifted hearts our prayer is sung:  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

Music and words by Luke Morton (2012).  
© 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

## 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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Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

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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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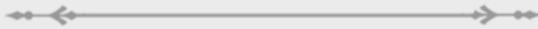
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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

**APC Office:** Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)  
(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*