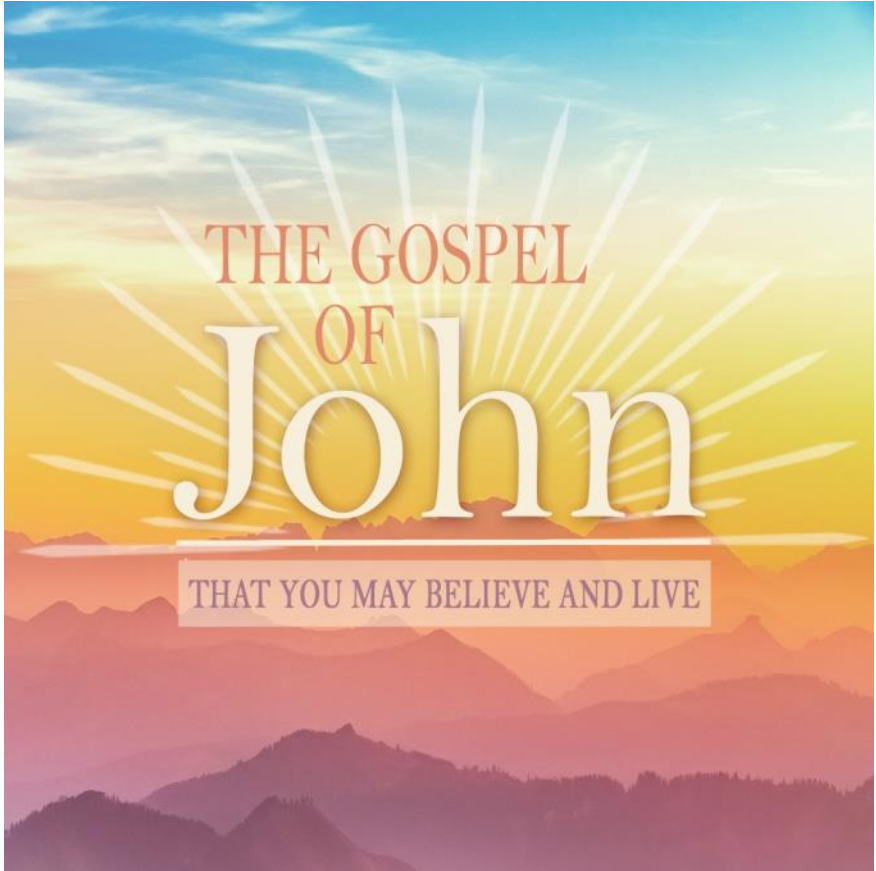




Ascension PCA

August 4, 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

*Your house is mine, but I am unworthy to meet You here,
and am unfit for spiritual service.*

*When I enter this place I come before You as a sinner,
condemned by conscience and Your Word,
for I am still in the body and in the wilderness,
ignorant, weak, in danger, and in need of Your aid.*

*But encouraged by Your all sufficient grace,
let me come to Your house with a lively hope of meeting You,
knowing that here You come to me and give me peace.
My soul is drawn out to You in longing desires for Your presence
in the sanctuary, at the table,
where all are entertained on a feast of good things.*

~ from *The Valley of Vision*

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

based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9,13

M: Let us worship the LORD!

P: He is our refuge and fortress, our God in Whom we trust.

M: Let us confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead.

P: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

M: Let us call upon the triune God,
believing Him in our hearts,
confessing Him with our mouths,
worshipping Him in spirit and truth.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

**Let us love and sing and wonder,
let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God.**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us,
pitied us when enemies,
called us by His grace and taught us,
gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood,
He presents our souls to God.**

**Let us wonder; grace and justice
join and point to mercy's store;
when thro' grace in Christ our trust is,
justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with His blood
has secured our way to God.**

Let us praise, and join the chorus
of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted Him before us,
now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with Your blood;
You are worthy, Lamb of God!"

Words by John Newton (1774, mod.).
Music from *Darmstadt Gesangbuch* (1698)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, People of the Risen King

Come, people of the risen King,
who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
to the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
we will lift our eyes to Him,
where steady arms of mercy reach
to gather children in.

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
and those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
and those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
and His mercies never cease,
but follow us through all our days
with the certain hope of peace.

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Come, young and old from every land,
men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
shore to shore we hear them call
the Truth that cries through every age:
our God is all in all!

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

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 89:19-37

Elder Brian Walsh

- 19 Of old You spoke in a vision to Your godly one, and said:
 "I have granted help to one who is mighty;
 I have exalted one chosen from the people.
- 20 I have found David, My servant;
 with My holy oil I have anointed him,
21 so that My hand shall be established with him;
 My arm also shall strengthen him.
- 22 The enemy shall not outwit him;
 the wicked shall not humble him.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him
 and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with him,
 and in My name shall his horn be exalted.
- 25 I will set his hand on the sea
 and his right hand on the rivers.
- 26 He shall cry to Me, 'You are my Father,
 my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'
- 27 And I will make him the firstborn,
 the highest of the kings of the earth.
- 28 My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
 and My covenant will stand firm for him.
- 29 I will establish his offspring forever
 and his throne as the days of the heavens.
- 30 If his children forsake My law
 and do not walk according to My rules,
31 if they violate My statutes
 and do not keep My commandments,
32 then I will punish their transgression with the rod
 and their iniquity with stripes,
33 but I will not remove from him My steadfast love
 or be false to My faithfulness.
- 34 I will not violate My covenant
 or alter the word that went forth from My lips.

- 35 Once for all I have sworn by My holiness;
I will not lie to David.
36 His offspring shall endure forever,
his throne as long as the sun before Me.
37 Like the moon it shall be established forever,
a faithful witness in the skies."

Selah

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty, eternal, most just and gracious God,
You are holy, yet my life and heart abound with
apologies not made, repentance not completed,
forgiveness not offered, peace not pursued,
neighbors not loved, appetites not restrained,
prisoners not visited, strangers not clothed and fed,
providences ignored, envy unchecked,
prayers unspoken, fears not conquered,
truth not defended, feet unmoved,
tongue unbridled, eyes unguarded,
time wasted, talents wasted, treasure wasted.**

**Lord Jesus, deliver me from these chains,
by Your grace.
Give me perpetual broken-heartedness;
keep me always clinging to Your cross;
flood me every moment with descending grace,
and I will praise You forever. 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

Ephesians 1:7-8 & Isaiah 12:1-2

L: In Christ we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of sins,
in accordance with the riches of God's grace
that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

**P: We will praise You, O LORD.
Although You were angry with us,
Your anger has turned away
and You have comforted us.
Surely God is our salvation;
we will trust and not be afraid.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Through the Precious Blood

**You have ordained every breath we take,
in pleasure or pain there is no mistake.
Gladness and grief, both are in Your hands,
and sufferings brief carry out Your plan.**

**And our fleeting sorrows
will yield an endless prize,
when some bright tomorrow
we'll see You with our eyes.**

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down
through the precious blood of Christ.*

**Father of lights, Giver of all grace,
Your mercies crown our lives all our days;
River of life quench our thirsty souls,
for no true delight does Your love withhold.**

**And in every season
we are satisfied,
for just one reason:
Christ was crucified.**

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down ...*

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down
through the precious blood of Christ.*

Words and music by Mark Altrogge
© 2008 Integrity's Praise! Music, Sovereign Grace Praise

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.

SONG OF PREPARATION

Speak, O Lord

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,
to receive the food of Your Holy Word.**

**Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness;**

**That the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.**

**Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes for Your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.**

**Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.**

**Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.**

**Words of pow'r that can never fail —
let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us —
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.**

**And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.**

**Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built,
and the earth is filled with Your glory.**

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
© 2005 Thankyou Music

PASTORAL PRAYER

ending in the Lord's Prayer

- 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.
And 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 18:38b–19:16a

³⁸ After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?"

¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin."

¹² From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

¹⁶ So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

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

"Behold the Man!"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

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

Luke 16:13

No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;
behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.**

**No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.**

**His reign shall know no end;
and round His piercéd feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851) Music by George Job Elvey (1868).
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

based on the Belgic Confession, Art. 20 & 21

M: What do you believe about the work of God?

**P: We believe that God
— who is perfectly merciful and also very just —
sent His Son to assume the nature in which
the disobedience had been committed,
in order to bear in it the punishment of sin
by His most bitter passion and death.**

M: And what do you believe about the work of Jesus Christ?

**P: We believe that Jesus Christ presented Himself
in our name before His Father,
to appease His wrath with full satisfaction
by offering Himself on the tree of the cross
and pouring out His precious blood
for the cleansing of our sins,
as the prophets had predicted.**

M: Why did He endure all this?

P: He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.

M: What comfort does this give you?

**P: We find all comforts in His wounds
and have no need to seek or invent any other means
to reconcile ourselves with God
than this one and only sacrifice, once made,
which renders believers perfect forever.**

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.*

PRAYER | MEDITATION

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
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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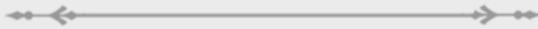
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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