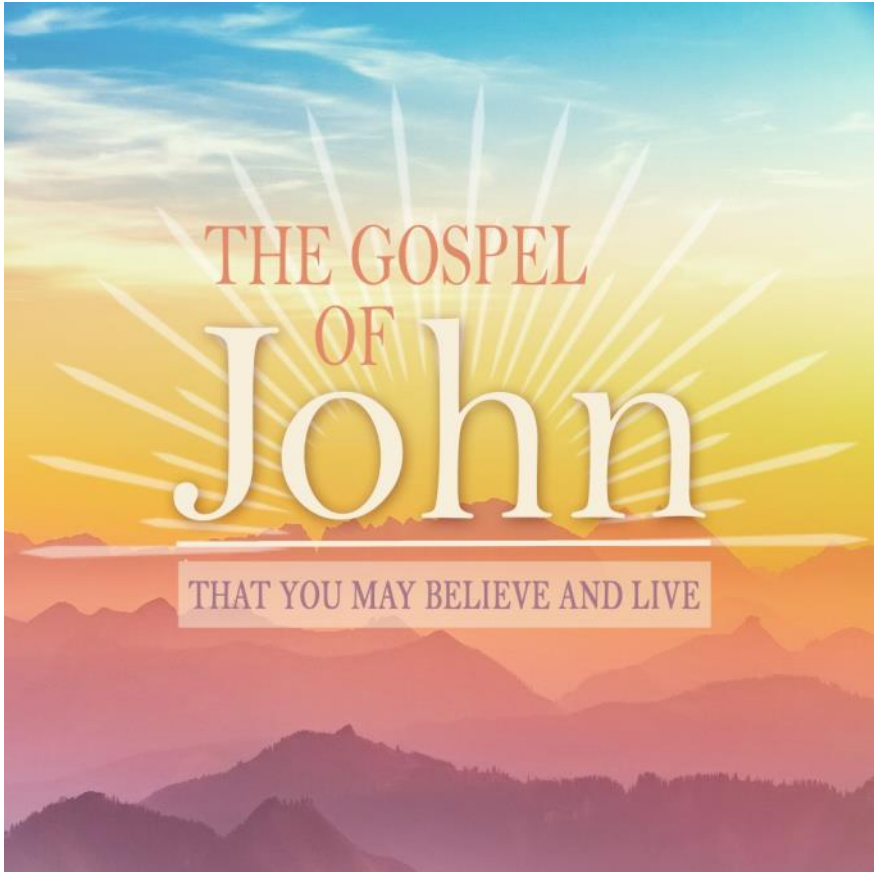




# Ascension PCA

August 11, 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

*If today you feel that sin is hateful to you,  
believe in Him who has said, "It is finished."*

*Let me link your hand in mine.*

*Let us come together, both of us, and say,*

*"Here are two poor naked souls, good Lord;  
we cannot clothe ourselves,"*

*and He will give us a robe, for "It is finished." . . .*

*"But must we not add tears to it?"*

*"No," says He, "No, it is finished, there is enough."*

*~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

# 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

*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.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Colossians 1 & 1 Timothy 1:17*

**M: Let us give thanks to the Father, Who has qualified us  
to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.  
For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves,  
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

**P: Now to the eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God...  
be honor and glory for ever and ever! Amen.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee*

**Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee  
for the bliss Thy love bestows;  
for the pard'ning grace that saves me,  
and the peace that from it flows.  
Help, O God, my weak endeavor;  
this dull soul to rapture raise:  
Thou must light the flame, or never  
can my love be warmed to praise.**

**Praise, my soul, the God that sought me,  
wretched wand'rer far astray;  
found me lost, and kindly brought me  
from the paths of death away.**

**Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,  
Him who saw my guilt-born fear;  
and, the light of hope revealing,  
bade the blood-stained cross appear.**

**Praise my Savior God that drew me  
to that cross, new life to give;  
held a blood-sealed pardon to me,  
bade me look to Him and live.**

**Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,  
roused me from my fatal ease;  
praise the grace whose promise warmed me,  
praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817).  
Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

**I will sing of my Redeemer,  
and His wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross He suffered,  
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,  
how my lost estate to save;  
In His boundless love and mercy,  
He the ransom freely gave.**

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.*

**I will sing of my Redeemer,  
and His heav'nly love to me;  
He from death to life hath brought me,  
Son of God with Him to be.**

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.*

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)

## 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 89:38-52*

- 38 But now You have cast off and rejected;  
You are full of wrath against Your anointed.
- 39 You have renounced the covenant with Your servant;  
You have defiled his crown in the dust.
- 40 You have breached all his walls;  
You have laid his strongholds in ruins.
- 41 All who pass by plunder him;  
he has become the scorn of his neighbors.
- 42 You have exalted the right hand of his foes;  
You have made all his enemies rejoice.
- 43 You have also turned back the edge of his sword,  
and You have not made him stand in battle.
- 44 You have made his splendor to cease  
and cast his throne to the ground.
- 45 You have cut short the days of his youth;  
You have covered him with shame. *Selah*
- 46 How long, O LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever?  
How long will Your wrath burn like fire?
- 47 Remember how short my time is!  
For what vanity You have created all the children of man!
- 48 What man can live and never see death?  
Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol? *Selah*

49 LORD, where is Your steadfast love of old,  
which by Your faithfulness You swore to David?  
50 Remember, O LORD, how Your servants are mocked,  
and how I bear in my heart the insults of all the many nations,  
51 with which Your enemies mock, O LORD,  
with which they mock the footsteps of Your anointed.  
52 Blessed be the LORD forever!  
Amen and Amen.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from Jeremiah 9:13-14, 13:23 & 14:7-9*

**P: O LORD, our God, we have forsaken Your law,  
Your holy and perfect law,  
which You set before us.  
Instead we have followed the stubbornness  
of our own hearts  
and the ways of false gods  
or of our vain imaginations.  
God have mercy on us for our transgressions.  
But, O LORD, our sorrow is greater still,  
for without Your mercy we cannot change.  
Can the Ethiopian change his skin  
or the leopard its spots?  
Neither can we do good  
who are accustomed to doing evil.  
Although our sins testify against us, O LORD,  
do something for the sake of Your name.  
For our backsliding is great;  
we have sinned against You.  
You are among us, O LORD,  
and we bear Your name;  
do not forsake us!**

## 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

*from Ephesians 2*

You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked... but God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...

## SONGS OF ASSURANCE

*Thy Mercy, My God*

**Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
the joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
hath won my affection, and bound my soul fast.**

**Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
but through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
and He that first made me still keeps me alive.**

**Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
and weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.**

**Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,  
and the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
all praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine  
seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.**

Words attr. to John Stocker. Music by Sandra McCracken (2001)

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN.

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*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

**My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine.  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;  
If ever I loved Thee,  
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,  
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.  
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;  
If ever I loved Thee,  
my Jesus, 'tis now.**



**I'll love Thee in life; I will love Thee in death,  
and praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath.  
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:  
If ever I loved Thee,  
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown upon my brow:  
If ever I loved Thee,  
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

Words by William R. Featherstone (1864).  
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon (1876)  
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 19:16b-42*

<sup>16b</sup> So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup> and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, <sup>24</sup> so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided My garments among them,  
and for My clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things, <sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup> He who saw it has borne witness — his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth — that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.” <sup>37</sup> And again another Scripture says, “They will look on Him whom they have pierced.”

<sup>38</sup> After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. <sup>40</sup> So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup> So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

## 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

*"Sovereignty and Submission"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*1 Corinthians 4:7*

For who sees anything different in you?  
What do you have that you did not receive?  
If then you received it, why do you boast  
as if you did not receive it?

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Jesus, Thank You*

**The myst'ry of the cross I cannot comprehend,  
The agonies of Calvary.  
You the perfect, Holy One, crushed Your Son  
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me.**

*Your blood has washed away my sin;  
Jesus, thank You.*

*The Father's wrath completely satisfied;  
Jesus, thank You.*

*Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;  
Jesus, thank You.*

**By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near;  
Your enemy You've made Your friend.  
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace,  
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.**

*Your blood has washed away my sin;  
Jesus, thank You.*

*The Father's wrath completely satisfied;  
Jesus, thank You.*

*Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;  
Jesus, thank You.*

# 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

### *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

**How deep the Father's love for us;  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that He would give His only Son  
to make a wretch His treasure.**  
**How great the pain of searing loss;  
the Father turns His face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen One  
bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross;  
my guilt upon His shoulders.**  
**Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.**  
**It was my sin that held Him there,  
until it was accomplished.**  
**His dying breath has brought me life,  
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.**  
**But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.**  
**Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.**  
**But this I know with all my heart,  
His wounds have paid my ransom.**  
**Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.**  
**But this I know with all my heart,  
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Words & music by Stuart Townend (1995).  
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## 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

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

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