



Ascension PCA

August 25, 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

The Lord willingly and freely reveals Himself in His Christ.

For in Christ, He offers

all happiness in place of our misery,

all wealth in place of our neediness;

in Him He opens to us the heavenly treasures

that our whole faith may contemplate His beloved Son,

our whole expectation depend upon Him,

and our whole hope cleave to and rest in Him.

~ John Calvin

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

M: Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy.

**P: We approach the LORD,
the compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,
maintaining love to thousands,
and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin.**

M: God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ
even when we were dead in our trespasses.

**P: In His great mercy He has given us new birth
into a living hope.**

M: So as a church family we worship Him saying,

**P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
He has demonstrated the riches of His mercy to us.
Praise be to the merciful God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
Every star and every planet
has been fashioned by Your hand.**

**All creation holds together
by the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice!**

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
with a word You calmed the sea.
Yet how silently You suffered,
that the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

**With a shout You rose victorious,
wresting vict'ry from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,
interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2002 Thankyou Music

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!**

Words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826). Music by John B. Dykes (1861).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 91:1–16

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with His pinions,
and under His wings you will find refuge;
His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
- 5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.
- 7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

- 8 You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place —
the Most High, who is my refuge —
- 10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
- 11 For He will command His angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
- 12 On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
- 13 You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.
- 14 “Because he holds fast to Me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows My name.
- 15 When he calls to Me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
- 16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him My salvation.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Most gracious and most merciful God,
we confess to You that time after time
we have entered Your presence with countless prayers,
but with hearts that have been closed to Your grace.**

**We have lifted our hands to You in praise,
but our feet have still walked in the ways of evil.
We have rehearsed Your commandments,
but have refused to see Your face
in the needs of our neighbor.**

Forgive, O Lord.

**Grant us the cleansing that comes through Jesus,
the Lamb of God.**

**And renew us by Your Spirit and Your Word
that we might walk in that newness of life
that is ours.**

In Jesus 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.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like You,

Who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of His inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.

You will again have compassion on us;

You will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

In Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

All My Boast is in Jesus

**What wonder of wonders, what love is this
that Christ would die for me?**

**His goodness, His merit, His righteousness,
this sinner's only plea.**

**O foolish pride, be crucified,
the work is finished.**

All my boast is in Jesus.

All my hope is His love.

*And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

**Now fully forgiven, my life is filled
with graces undeserved.**

**For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill,
let praises now return.**

Rise up my soul and bless the Lord.

Who else is worthy?

All my boast is in Jesus.

All my hope is His love.

*And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

O praise the One, forever blessed.

Him alone my heart adores.

*And I will boast in nothing less
than the love of Christ, my Lord.*

O praise the One, forever blessed.

Him alone my heart adores.

*And I will boast in nothing less
than the love of Christ, my Lord.*

**I boast not in riches, in strength or might,
but in the grace of God.
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ
in plenty or in want.
That I may know, that all may see
His pow'r within me.**

***All my boast is in Jesus.
All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.***

***Now I stand in His freedom,
ransomed clean in His sight.
And I cannot be ashamed for
my boast is Jesus Christ.
My boast is Jesus Christ forever,
my boast is Jesus Christ.***

Words and music by Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.
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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

Exodus 15:22-27

²² Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴ And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there He tested them, ²⁶ saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in His eyes, and give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes,

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money,
and be content with what you have,
for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Words by Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1923).

Music by William Marion Runyan (1923).

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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

from Hebrews 9 & 10

- M: For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that He has died as a ransom to set them free.
- P: Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.**

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

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.**

**Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
to Thy glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore.**

**How He watches o'er His loved ones,
died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to Thee.**

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).

Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)

PUBLIC DÓMAIN

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
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed on the back page.

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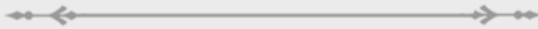
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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