



Ascension PCA

September 29, 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

*Grant, Almighty God, that as you invite us daily  
by various means to repentance,  
and continue also to urge us,  
because You see our extreme tardiness —  
O grant that we may at length be awakened  
from our indifference,  
and do not allow us to be inebriated  
by the charms of Satan and the world;  
but by Your Spirit rouse us to real groaning,  
that, being ashamed of ourselves, we may flee to Your mercy,  
and doubt not but that You will be favorable to us,  
provided with a sincere heart we call on You,  
and seek that reconciliation which You daily offer to us  
by Your Gospel in the name of Your only begotten Son. Amen.*

~ 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

*from Isaiah 40*

**M:** To whom then will you compare Me,  
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
who created these?  
He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name,  
by the greatness of His might,  
and because He is strong in power  
not one is missing.  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?

**P:** **The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
His understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might He increases strength.  
Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;  
but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Tell Out, My Soul*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers, dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961);

Music by Holly Dutton (2001);

Words: ©1961 Hope Publishing Company. Music: ©2001 Dutton, Holly

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown Him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,  
ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail Him who saves you by His grace  
and crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,  
on this terrestrial ball  
to Him all majesty ascribe  
and crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at His feet may fall.  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

Verses 1-2 by Edward Perronet (1779); verse 3 by John Rippon (1787).

Music by Oliver Holden (1793).

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.

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*1 Corinthians 1:1-17*

*Elder Brett Chase*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge — <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

<sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,  
who of Your great mercy has promised  
forgiveness of sins to those who with  
repentance and true faith turn to You:**

**Have mercy on us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

*from Revelation 1:5-6*

**E: Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins  
by His blood, He has made us to be a kingdom and priests  
to serve His God and Father.**

**P: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain ... thanks be to God!**

## SONGS OF ASSURANCE

*Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,  
precious Redeemer, and Friend.  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could  
rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,  
Spirit we long to embrace.  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
hopelessly lost the way.  
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.**

*You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

**Almighty, infinite Father,  
faithfully loving Your own.  
Here in our weakness You find us  
falling before Your throne.  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.**

***You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

***You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

Words and music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse.  
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### *All Is Well*

**The sun beams on behind the clouds,  
and in the dark still grace abounds.  
All is well because of God's great love.  
The road of disappointment runs  
where unseen mercies wait for us,  
and all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father  
in our Savior Jesus Christ.  
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.  
He will never leave our side.***

**He feels our weakness, knows our need,  
and for our good He intercedes.  
All is well because of God's great love.  
Through ev'ry failure, ev'ry fear,  
the Lord of comfort draws us near,  
and all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father  
in our Savior Jesus Christ.  
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.  
He will never leave our side.***

**His coming soon will fill the sky,  
and all that's wrong will be made right.  
With newborn eyes we will behold  
the glory of the risen Lord.**



**All will be well because of God's great love.  
Yes, all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father  
in our Savior Jesus Christ.  
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.  
He will never leave our side.***

Words and music by Steve Cook, Vikki Cook (2012).  
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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

*Psalm 141*

- 1 O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!  
Give ear to my voice when I call to You!
- 2 Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,  
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!
- 3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;  
keep watch over the door of my lips!
- 4 Do not let my heart incline to any evil,  
to busy myself with wicked deeds  
in company with men who work iniquity,  
and let me not eat of their delicacies!
- 5 Let a righteous man strike me — it is a kindness;  
let him rebuke me — it is oil for my head;  
let my head not refuse it.  
Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.
- 6 When their judges are thrown over the cliff,  
then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.
- 7 As when one plows and breaks up the earth,  
so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.
- 8 But my eyes are toward You, O GOD, my Lord;  
in You I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!
- 9 Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me  
and from the snares of evildoers!
- 10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
while I pass by safely.

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

*The Aroma of Prayer"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

*Matthew 10:8*

Freely you have received, freely give.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
and to take Him at His Word;  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,  
just from sin and self to cease;  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
life and rest, and joy, and peace.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,  
precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that Thou art with me,  
will be with me to the end.**

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more!*

Words by Louisa M.R. Stead (1882).  
Music by William J. Kirkpatrick (1882).  
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

*from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1*

**P: I believe that I am not my own,  
but belong —  
body and soul,  
in life and in death —  
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for my sins  
with His precious blood,  
and has set me free  
from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven:  
in fact, all things must work together  
for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him,  
Christ, by His Holy Spirit,  
assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready  
from now on to live for Him.**

### 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

*Jesus, I Come*

**Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of my sickness into Thy health,  
out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,  
out of my sin and into Thyself,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into the glorious gain of Thy cross,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,  
out of life's storms and into Thy calm,  
out of distress into jubilant psalm,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of unrest and arrogant pride,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into Thy blessed will to abide,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,  
out of despair into raptures above,  
upward forever on wings like a dove,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into the joy and light of Thy home,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,  
ever Thy glorious face to behold,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.*  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,  
ever Thy glorious face to behold,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.*  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

Words by William True Sleeper (1887). Music by Greg Thompson (2000).  
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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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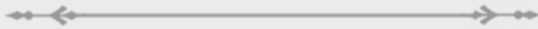
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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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