



Ascension PCA

October 6, 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

*I have calmed and quieted my soul. **Psalm 131:2***

No one seems to want (and no one can find)  
a place of quiet —  
because, when you are quiet,  
you have to face reality...

The Christian is supposed to be very opposite...  
We are not to be caught up in ceaseless motion  
which prevents us from ever being quiet.  
Rather we are to put everything second  
so we can be alive to the voice of God  
and allow it to speak to us and confront us.

*~ Francis Schaeffer*

# 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

*Galatians 1:3-5 & Psalm 145:1*

**M:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who gave Himself for our sins  
to rescue us from the present evil age,  
according to the will of our God and Father,  
to whom be glory for ever and ever.

**P: We will extol you, our God and King,  
and bless Your Name forever and ever!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face,  
full arrayed in blood-washed linen,  
how I'll sing Thy sovereign grace.**

**Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,  
bring Thy promises to pass,  
for I know Thy power will keep me  
till I'm home with Thee at last.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758) & Bob Kauflin (2008).  
Music by John Wyeth (1813).  
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### *Only a Holy God*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.**

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.*

**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God,  
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.  
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## 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 1:18-31*

*Elder Chris Sledge*

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand

signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty Father,**

**We confess before you the deep-seated pride that leads us to parade our strength and goodness before others, while at the same time hiding and denying our weakness and sin. Forgive us, Lord.**

**Jesus, thank you that You love and are not ashamed to be called our Brother. You took on the weakness of a human body and entered our broken world in order to live the life that we could not live.**

**Holy Spirit, we cannot deliver ourselves from our sinful brokenness. Help us to look to Jesus for our righteousness and salvation — He alone is our hope and refuge. Transform us, by Your mercy and grace, into thankful, humble, watchful children who are eager to serve You.**

**May the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts be acceptable to You, our Rock and our Redeemer, until the day when our faith becomes sight and our souls are made whole. 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 John 1:12*

But to all who receive Jesus, who believe in His name,  
He gives the right to become children of God...

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*He Will Hold Me Fast*

**When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
when the tempter would prevail,  
He will hold me fast.**

**I could never keep my hold  
through life's fearful path;  
for my love is often cold;  
He must hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**Those He saves are His delight,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
precious in His holy sight,  
He will hold me fast.**

**He'll not let my soul be lost;  
His promises shall last;  
bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
justice has been satisfied,  
He will hold me fast.**

**Raised with Him to endless life;  
He will hold me fast;  
'till our faith is turned to sight,  
when He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***



# 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.

## READING OF THE WORD

### *Obadiah 1-9*

- 1 The vision of Obadiah.  
Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom:  
We have heard a report from the LORD,  
and a messenger has been sent among the nations:  
"Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!"
- 2 Behold, I will make you small among the nations;  
you shall be utterly despised.
- 3 The pride of your heart has deceived you,  
you who live in the clefts of the rock,  
in your lofty dwelling,  
who say in your heart,  
"Who will bring me down to the ground?"
- 4 Though you soar aloft like the eagle,  
though your nest is set among the stars,  
from there I will bring you down,  
declares the LORD.
- 5 If thieves came to you,  
if plunderers came by night —  
how you have been destroyed! —  
would they not steal only enough for themselves?  
If grape gatherers came to you,  
would they not leave gleanings?
- 6 How Esau has been pillaged,  
his treasures sought out!
- 7 All your allies have driven you to your border;  
those at peace with you have deceived you;  
they have prevailed against you;  
those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you —  
you have no understanding.
- 8 Will I not on that day, declares the LORD,  
destroy the wise men out of Edom,  
and understanding out of Mount Esau?
- 9 And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman,  
so that every man from Mount Esau  
will be cut off by slaughter.



## GIVING TO THE LORD

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

*Proverbs 3:9*

Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your crops.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from Thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfil Thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to Thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to Thee for dress;  
helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
foul, I to the Fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when my eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776);  
altered by Thomas Cotterill (1815).  
Music by Thomas Hastings (1830).  
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

*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

*Jesus, Strong and Kind*

**Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.  
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.  
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.***

**Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.  
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.***

**Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.  
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.***

***For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.  
Jesus, strong and kind.***

Words and music by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,  
Colin Buchanan.  
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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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Scripture text from

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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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

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

**Meeting Address:** 8224 220<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

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

**APC Office:** Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)