



Ascension PCA

November 24, 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

*To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God
in everything He has given us —
and He has given us everything.*

*Every breath we draw is a gift of His love,
every moment of existence is a grace,
for it brings with it immense graces from Him.*

*Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted,
is never unresponsive,
is constantly awakening to new wonder
and to praise of the goodness of God.*

*For the grateful person knows that God is good,
not by hearsay but by experience.
And that is what makes all the difference.*

~ Thomas Merton

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

Psalm 106:1-2, 47-48

M: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever!
Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,
or declare all His praise?

**P: Save us, O LORD our God,
and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to Your holy name
and glory in Your praise.
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!**

M: And let all the people say,

P: "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
God the Father reigning o'er us,
Jesus bringing life to man.
Ever singing, by the Spirit,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward,
in the blessed song of life.**

Words by Henry van Dyke (1907).
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin.
There, forever purified,
in Thy presence to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come,
raise the glorious harvest home.**

Words by Henry Alford (1844, 1867). Music by George J. Elvey (1859).
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 6:11-20

Elder Theo Vander Wel

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

¹² "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³ "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: O LORD,

You are good.

You have shown compassion on all You have made.

You are the fountain of every good thing.

**But too often, we have drunk from the fountain,
taken Your good gifts and made them our own,
while failing to gratefully acknowledge the Giver.**

**You, O LORD, are the highest good for Your creatures,
but we have often wasted our energies
in the pursuit of lesser things —
spent all we have on nothing —
only to find ourselves exhausted and destitute.**

**O LORD, in Your goodness and grace look upon us
in our sinful folly and have mercy.
Forgive our ingratitude.
Forgive our squandering of Your gifts,
and restore us according to Your grace
extended to sinners 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

Colossians 1:12-14

Give thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share
in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.
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.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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.***

***Lover of my soul, I want to live for You.
Lover of my soul, I want to live for You.
Lover of my soul, I want to live for You.***

***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.***

Words and music by Pat Sczebel
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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 92

- 1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
- 2 to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
and Your faithfulness by night,
- 3 to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
- 4 For you, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;
at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.
- 5 How great are Your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!
- 6 The stupid man cannot know;
the fool cannot understand this:
- 7 that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;

8 but You, O LORD, are on high forever.
9 For behold, Your enemies, O LORD,
for behold, Your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.
10 But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
You have poured over me fresh oil.
11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.
12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
13 They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.
14 They still bear fruit in old age;
they are ever full of sap and green,
15 to declare that the LORD is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

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 Key to Human Flourishing"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Philippians 4:18-19

[Your gifts] are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suff'ring,
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
of the law; in Him we stand.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory;
grace unmeasured, love untold.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him.
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.**

**What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.**

Words and music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker
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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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Romans 8:11, 16-17, 31-32, 35a, 37-39

M: If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

P: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

M: What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will he not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

P: For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

*Amazing grace! Amazing grace!
Amazing grace! Amazing grace!*

**Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

*Amazing grace! Amazing grace!
Amazing grace! Amazing grace!*

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
as long as life endures.**

**Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

***Amazing grace! Amazing grace!
Amazing grace! Amazing grace!
Amazing grace! Amazing grace!
Amazing grace! Amazing grace!***

St. 1–5 by John Newton (1779);
St. 6 from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads* (1790).
Traditional American melody; arr. by Edwin O. Excell (1900).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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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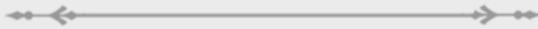
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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