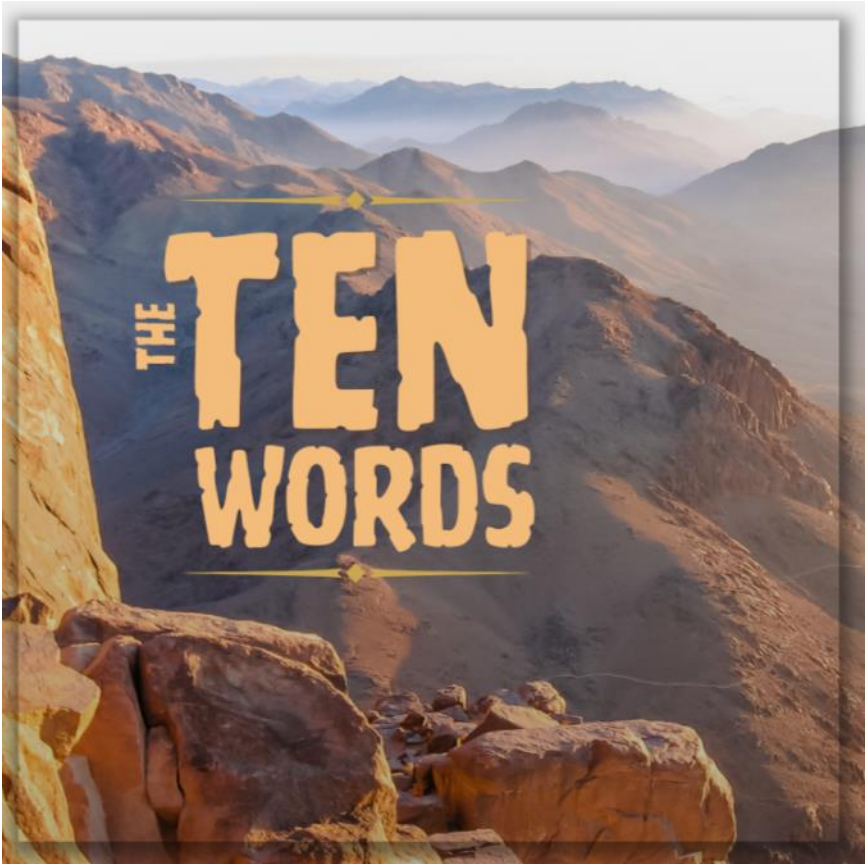




Ascension PCA

February 9, 2025



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

My meditation *of Him* shall be sweet.

"Of Him" — that is, of the Well-Beloved of the Father,
of the Well-Beloved of the Church,
of the Well-Beloved of my own soul —
of Him who loved me,

in whose blood I have washed my robes
and made them white.

It is meditation *"of Him"* that is sweet —
not merely of doctrine about Him,
but *of Him*, of Himself —

"my meditation of Him."

Not merely of His offices, and His work,
and all that concerns Him,
but of His own dear Self!

There lies the sweetness
and the closer we come to His blessed Person,
the more truly have we approached the very center of bliss!

~ Charles 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 42:5-6a,8

M: Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you; ...
I am the LORD; that is My name;
My glory I give to no other,
nor My praise to carved idols."

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

There is a Higher Throne

**There is a higher throne
than all this world has known;
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace.
Salvation comes.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

**And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honor Him in perfect song
where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

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 10:1-22

Elder Theo Vander Wel

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?

¹⁹ What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 25:4-11

**P: Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me Your paths.**

**Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;
for You I wait all the day long.**

**Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

**Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

**He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.**

**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love
and faithfulness,**

for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

**For Your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

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 PARDON

Hebrews 10:11-14

... Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet.

For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!**

**And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Exodus 20:1-12

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying,

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁷ You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

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

"Authority"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace...

SONG OF RESPONSE

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

**All glory, laud and honor,
to You, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel,
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's Name coming,
the King and Blessed One!**

**The company of angels
is praising You on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before You went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before You we present.**

**To You, before Your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to You, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.**

**As You received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring;
for You delight in goodness
O good and gracious King!**

Words by Theodulf, Bishop of Orléans (ca. 820);
Translated by John Mason Neale (1851; alt.)
Music by Melchior Teschner (ca. 1615)
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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above

**I have a strong and perfect plea:
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,
my name is written on His heart;**

**I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there,
who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Savior died
my sinful soul is counted free,
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.**

[INSTRUMENTAL]

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of Glory and of Grace.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God;
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997).
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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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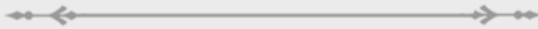
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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