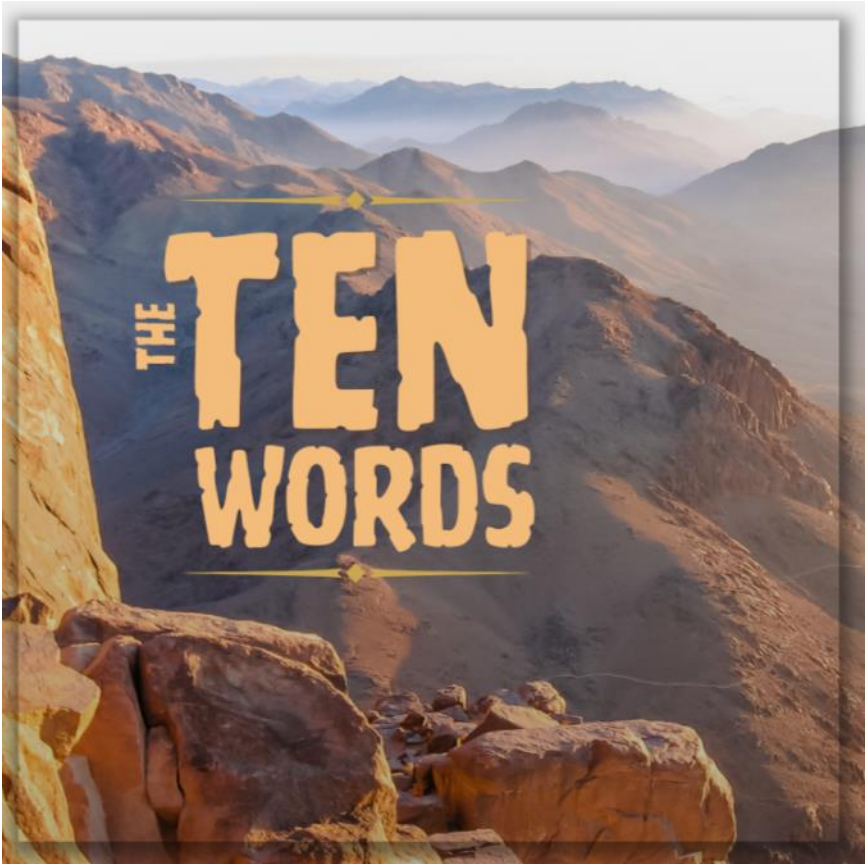




# Ascension PCA

February 16, 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**

Almighty God...

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

*Psalm 136:1,3,23, 26 & Psalm 89:1*

MINISTER: Minister: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

**WOMEN: For His steadfast love endures forever.**

MINISTER: Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

**MEN: For His steadfast love endures forever.**

MINISTER: It is He who remembered us in our low estate,  
for His steadfast love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the God of heaven.  
For His steadfast love endures forever...

**ALL: We will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with our mouths we will make known  
Your faithfulness to all generations...**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Psalm 98*

**O sing a new song to the LORD  
for wonders He has done,  
His right hand and His holy arm  
the victory have won.**

**With harp make music to the LORD;  
with harp a psalm O sing!  
With horn and trumpet raise a shout  
before the LORD, the King.**

**Let seas in all their vastness roar,  
the world its living horde.  
Let rivers clap, let mountains sing  
their joy before the LORD!**

**Because He comes, He surely comes,  
the judge of earth to be!  
With justice He will judge the world,  
all men with equity.**

Words based on *Scottish Psalter* (1650).  
Music (*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*) by Carl G. Gläser (1828);  
arr. by Lowell Mason (1839)  
Words: © 2012 Crown and Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

## *To God Be the Glory*

**To God be the glory — great things He has done!  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate so we may go in!**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,  
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood —  
to every believer the promise of God.  
The vilest offender who truly believes  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives!**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,  
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

**Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son.  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,  
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

Words by Fanny J. Crosby (1875).  
Music by William Howard Doane (1875).  
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 10:23–11:1*

*Elder Brian Walsh*

<sup>23</sup> "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. <sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. <sup>25</sup> Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. <sup>26</sup> For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." <sup>27</sup> If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. <sup>28</sup> But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience — <sup>29</sup> I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? <sup>30</sup> If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? <sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup> just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

<sup>1</sup> Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned  
against You in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
Your Word has sprouted in our hearts,  
but so often struggles to take root.  
Your good commands to us are chased away  
by trouble, persecution, and our own desire to sin.  
Lord, have mercy on us  
and give us love a love for You above all things;  
love with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind.  
And grant us love for our neighbor, above ourselves.  
Through 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 PARDON

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,  
to all who turn to God in hope,  
this is God's Word of grace:

***In Jesus, you are accepted,  
you are forgiven, you are loved.***

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)*

**Out of the depths I cry to You,  
in darkest places I will call,  
incline Your ear to me anew,  
and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,  
how could I come before Your throne?  
yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,  
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You,  
on Your word I will rely.***

***I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
till my soul is satisfied.***

**So put Your hope in God alone,  
take courage in His power to save,  
completely and forever won  
by Christ emerging from the grave.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You,  
on Your word I will rely.***

***I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
till my soul is satisfied.***

**Now He has come to make a way,  
and God Himself has paid the price,  
that all who trust in Him today  
find healing in His sacrifice.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
through the storm and through the night.***

***I will wait for You, surely wait for You,  
for Your love is my delight.***

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
through the storm and through the night.  
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,  
for Your love is my delight.***

Words and music by  
Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend  
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Townend Songs

## 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

*followed by 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.**

### READING OF THE WORD

*Exodus 20:13 & Matthew 5:21-22*

<sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder."

<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

<sup>22</sup> But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."

### 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.**





## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Nothing but the Blood of Jesus*

**What can wash away my sin?**

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

**What can make me whole again?**

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

***Oh! precious is the flow***

***That makes me white as snow;***

***No other fount I know,***

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

**For my cleansing this I see:**

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

**For my pardon this my plea:**

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

***Oh! precious is the flow***

***That makes me white as snow;***

***No other fount I know,***

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

**This is all my hope and peace:**

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

**This is all my righteousness:**

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

***Oh! precious is the flow***

***That makes me white as snow;***

***No other fount I know,***

***Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

Words and music by Robert Lowry (1876).  
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

**P: We proclaim that our Lord Jesus  
was sent by the Father into the world,  
that He took upon himself our flesh and blood,  
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.**

**We confess that He was condemned to die  
that we might be pardoned,  
and suffered death that we might live.**

**We proclaim that He is risen  
to make us right with God  
and that He shall come again  
in the glory of His new creation.**

**This we do now and until He comes again;  
we remember His death,  
we proclaim His resurrection,  
we await His coming in glory.**

## 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

*'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!***

**O how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
just to trust His cleansing blood;  
Just in simple faith to plunge me  
'neath the healing cleansing flood.**

*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!  
O for grace to trust Him more!*

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

***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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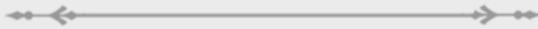
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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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**APC Office:** Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)  
(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*