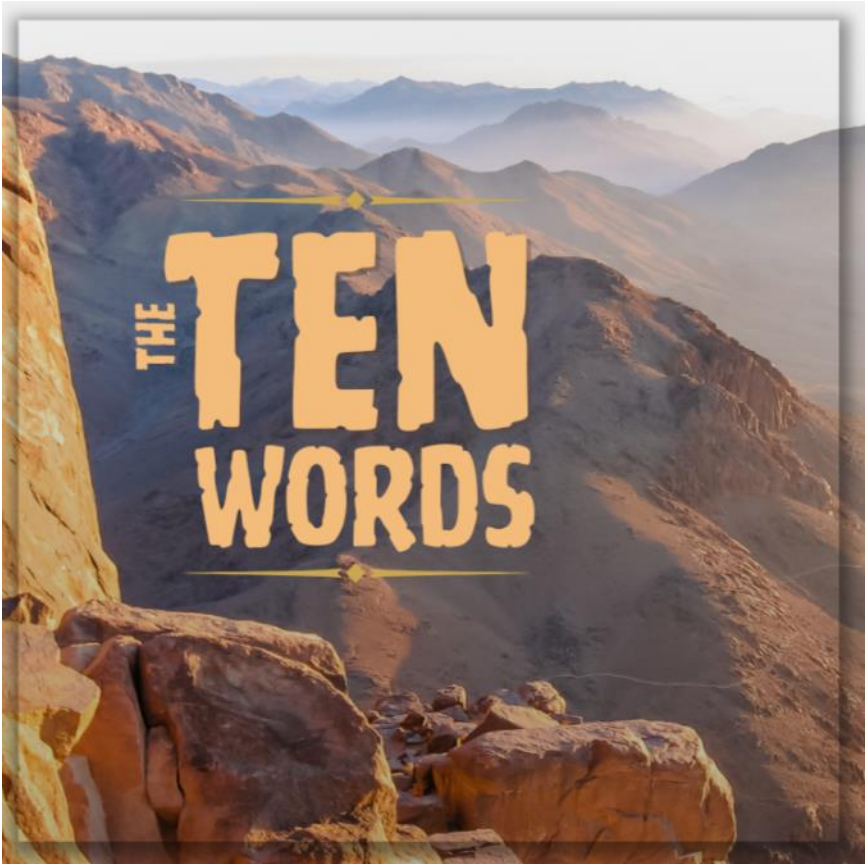




# Ascension PCA

February 23, 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

*Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.*

*My Lord, fill it. I am weak in faith; strengthen me.*

*I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent,  
that my love may go out to my neighbor.*

*I do not have a strong and firm faith;*

*at times I doubt and am unable to trust You altogether.*

*O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in You.*

*I am poor; You are rich, and You came to be merciful  
to the poor. I am a sinner; You alone are true.*

*In me there is an abundance of sin;*

*in You is the fullness of righteousness.*

*Therefore, I will remain with You,*

*from whom can I receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.*

~ Martin Luther

# 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

2 Corinthians 4:6

M: Our God who has said,  
*"Let us shine out of darkness,"*  
has shone in our hearts to give the light  
of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.  
*Believers in Christ, come and seek the face of your Lord.*

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Psalm 113*

**Praise Jehovah; praise the LORD;  
Ye His servants, praise accord;  
Bless-ed be Jehovah's name;  
Evermore His praise proclaim,  
Evermore His praise proclaim.**

**From the dawn to setting sun,  
praise the LORD, the Mighty One.  
O'er all nations He is high;  
Yea, His glory crowns the sky,  
yea, His glory crowns the sky.**

**Who is like the LORD our God?  
High in heav'n in His abode,  
Who Himself doth humble low,  
things in heav'n and earth to know,  
things in heav'n and earth to know.**

*Words from Trinity Psalter.*

*Music (Take My Life and Let it Be) by Henri A. César Malan*  
Words: © 1994 Crown & Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

### *Is He Worthy?*

Do you feel the world is broken? **(We do)**  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? **(We do)**  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop  
the light from getting through? **(We do)**  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **(We do)**

Is all creation groaning? **(It is)**  
Is a new creation coming? **(It is)**  
Is the glory of the Lord to be  
the light within our midst? **(It is)**  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **(It is)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open  
the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? He is!***

Does the Father truly love us? **(He does)**  
Does the Spirit move among us? **(He does)**  
And does Jesus, our Messiah,  
hold forever those He loves? **(He does)**  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **(He does)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.***

***From ev'ry people and tribe,  
every nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God  
to reign with the Son.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy, is He worthy,  
is He worthy of this? He is!***

***Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is!***

## *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
'till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till Thy inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.  
More and more Thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Luke Morton (2012).  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

## **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 11: 2-16*

*Elder Chris Sledge*

<sup>2</sup> Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.

<sup>3</sup> But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. <sup>4</sup> Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, <sup>5</sup> but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven....

<sup>6</sup> For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. <sup>7</sup> For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. <sup>8</sup> For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. <sup>9</sup> Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. <sup>10</sup> That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. <sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; <sup>12</sup> for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. <sup>13</sup> Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? <sup>14</sup> Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, <sup>15</sup> but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. <sup>16</sup> If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful God,**

**Nail down all our sins and iniquities to the cross of Christ,  
Bury them in His death, bathe them in His blood,  
Hide them in His wounds,  
And let them never rise up in judgement against us.**

**Touch our hearts with true repentance for all sin.  
Let us never lie down in sin, nor continue in sin,  
But let us get upon our feet again, turn to You  
with all our heart,  
Seek You while you may be found,  
And while You extend grace and mercy to us.  
Pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

**Give us faith to believe all the great and precious promise  
made in the gospel.  
Strengthen us from above to walk in all the true  
and sound fruits of faith.  
Leave us not to ourselves, but help us  
by Your Spirit.  
In Jesus' name 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

*Romans 8:1*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those  
who are in Christ Jesus.

## 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.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## READING OF THE WORD

*Exodus 20:14 Matthew 5:27-30*

<sup>12</sup> "You shall not commit adultery."

<sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'<sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

## 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

*"Purity"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## SONG OF RESPONSE

### *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
as Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.**

***Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

***Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer  
and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

***Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

Words by Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1923).

Music by William Marion Runyan (1923).

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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.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*Adapted from Valley of Vision, "Love Lustres at Calvary"*

**P: Christ was all anguish that I might be all joy,  
cast off that I might be brought in,  
trodden down as an enemy that I might be welcomed  
as a friend,  
surrendered to hell's worst that I might attain  
heaven's best,  
stripped that I might be clothed,  
wounded that I might be healed,  
athirst that I might drink,  
tormented that I might be comforted,  
made a shame that I might inherit glory,  
entered into darkness that I might have eternal light.**

**My Savior wept that all tears might be wiped  
from my eyes,  
groaned that I might have endless song,  
endured all pain that I might have unfading health,  
bore a thorny crown that I might have a glory diadem,  
bowed His head that I might uplift mine,  
experienced reproach that I might receive welcome,  
closed His eyes in death that I might gaze  
on unclouded brightness, expired that I might  
live forever.**

**Thanks be to God the Son for His sacrifice for us!**

## 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. ©2019 CityAlight Music

## 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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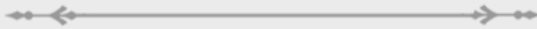
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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*