



Ascension PCA

March 2, 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

Lord Jesus, O, the wonder of this Good News...

*We cannot hear it too much, believe it too deeply,
or rejoice in it too fully.*

*By Your death on the cross, You have taken away our sins,
once and for all.*

*Nothing is left undone;
nothing more needs to happen;
nothing else could've met our need.*

It's not: You did your part, now we must do our part.

It's: You did your part; now let us trust in your part.

*Even as we rest in Your finished work,
so we rejoice in Your present reign, Lord Jesus.*

*Atoned-for-sin will be abolished sin;
already-defeated evil will be eradicated evil;
vanquished enemies will be eliminated enemies.*

*May the joy of this good news buckle our knees in humble adoration,
and empower our hands for neighbor love.*

~ Scotty Smith

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 42:1-5

**P: As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for You, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?**

**My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”**

**These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go with the multitude,
leading the procession to the house of God,
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.**

**Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise Him,
my Savior and my God.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**The Lord ye know is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;**

**praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Words by William Kethe (1561). Music by Louis Bourgeois (1551).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

The God of Abra'm Praise

**The God of Abra'm praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days
and God of love.**

**Jehovah, great I AM!
By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred Name
forever blest.**

**The God of Abra'm praise,
at whose supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys
at His right hand.**

**I all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r;
and Him my only portion make,
my shield and tow'r.**

**He by Himself hath sworn;
I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagles wings upborne,
to heaven ascend.
I shall behold His face;
I shall His pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of His grace,
forevermore.**

**The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high:
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.**

**Hail, Abra'm's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays;
all might and majesty are Thine
and endless praise.**

Words by Thomas Olivers (1770). Music by Nathan Partain (2003)
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2003 Partain, Nathan

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 11:17-34

Elder Brett Chase

¹⁷ But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.

¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,

¹⁹ for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹ For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another — ³⁴ if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home — so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, In You we live and move
and have our being;
where could we go from Your presence?**

**From the shadows of our sinfulness we confess to You,
that we have not walked in Your light
but have chosen darkness and its evil ways.**

Forgive us Lord.

**We praise You for the light of the gospel by which...
You have penetrated our dark world,
paid our awful debt of sin,
and brought us to Yourself.**

**O Lord, forgive our sins,
renew us in our relationship to You,
and cause us to walk in the light as You are in the light.**

**That we might once again enjoy true fellowship
with You, our God, and with one another.**

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

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

I declare to you... in Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

**And can it be that I should gain
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me?**

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite His grace.
Humbled Himself, so great His love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

How Deep

You were broken that I might be healed.
You were cast off that I might draw near.
You were thirsty that I might come drink.
Cried out in anguish that I might sing:

*How deep is Your love.
How high and how wide is Your mercy.
How deep is Your grace.
Our hearts overflow with praise
to You.*

**You knew darkness that I might know light.
Wept great tears that mine might be dried.
Stripped of glory that I might be clothed.
Crushed by Your Father to call me Your own.**

***How deep is Your love.
How high and how wide is Your mercy.
How deep is Your grace.
Our hearts overflow with praise...***

***How deep is Your love.
How high and how wide is Your mercy.
How deep is Your grace.
Our hearts overflow with praise
to You.***

Based on The Valley of Vision prayer "Love Lustres at Calvary"
Words and music by Stephen Altrogge.
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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Matthew 9:14-17 & Psalm 73:25-26

¹⁴ "Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷ Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but You?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 42:1-5

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
bring an offering, and come into His courts!

SONG OF RESPONSE

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that Thou art —
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all ...
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905),
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)

Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)

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

Isaiah 25:1,6-9

P: O LORD, you are our God;

**We will exalt You; we will praise Your name,
for You have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

**On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow,
of aged wine well refined.**

**And He will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
He will swallow up death forever;
and the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people He will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.**

**It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God;
we have waited for Him, that He might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."**

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

Keep the Feast

**Joyfully we join You at Your table,
pleading not our righteousness,
By Your wealth of mercy we are able
now to feast in confidence.**

*Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.*

**Who is fit to feast with such a Savior?
Who His sandals could untie?
Who are we that He would show us favor,
granting us this gift of life?**

*Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.*

**Happy sign of friendship and reunion
with the blessed Three in One.
Foretaste of that glorious communion,
vision of the world to come.**

*Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.*

Words and music by Skye Peterson and Ben Shive (2024).
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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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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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