



# Ascension PCA

March 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

*The essence of eternal life is not found  
in having my sins forgiven,  
in possessing a mansion in heaven,  
or in having streets of gold on which to walk forever.*

*Rather, the essence of eternal life  
is intimately knowing God  
and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.*

*Lord, grant us the grace and strength to grasp  
how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,  
this love that ultimately surpasses all knowledge  
but has been lavished on us...*

*...that in knowing something of that love,  
we might be filled with all the fullness of God.*

~ Milton Vincent

# 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 6:1-3*

M: In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:  
*"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of His glory!"*

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*Holy, Holy, Holy!*

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
our song shall rise to Thee.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea.**

**Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see.**

**Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
in earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

## *Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,  
precious Redeemer, and Friend.  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could  
rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,  
Spirit we long to embrace.  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
hopelessly lost the way.  
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.**

***You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

**Almighty, infinite Father,  
faithfully loving Your own.  
Here in our weakness You find us  
falling before Your throne.  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.**

***You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

***You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

Words and music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse.  
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## **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.

# OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Psalm 96*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

- 1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- 2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name;  
tell of His salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare His glory among the nations,  
His marvelous works among all the peoples!
- 4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
He is to be feared above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.
- 6 Splendor and majesty are before Him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
bring an offering, and come into His courts!
- 9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before Him, all the earth!
- 10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!  
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;  
He will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- 12 let the field exult, and everything in it!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- 13 before the LORD, for He comes,  
for He comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness,  
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Loving heavenly Father,  
we have wild and rebellious hearts.  
We claim to value Your wisdom above our own,  
but we are weak and blinded by our own sin.  
When You walk us through frightening valleys,  
we quickly turn aside like foolish sheep  
to comfort ourselves with sin,  
instead of believing that You love us  
and will always provide what we need.  
When we don't like the path ahead  
because it is hard and stony,  
we refuse to follow You and accuse You of not caring.  
Though You satisfy our souls with good things,  
we have little appetite for the feast to which You call us.**

**Our desire for Your Word is weak;  
our minds are easily captivated by temptations  
that dazzle us far more than Your love amazes us;  
and our repentance is tinged with pride and selfishness.**

**Father, forgive us.**

**Lord, have mercy on us in our great weakness.**

**Jesus, thank You for paying for our sin  
and for giving us Your perfect goodness  
as a free gift through faith.**

**Holy Spirit, press the gospel deep into our hearts,  
and change our disordered affections.**

**In the name of 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

*from Revelation 1:5-6*

Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood,  
and He has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God  
and Father.

## SONGS OF ASSURANCE

*His Mercy is More*

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness He lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa  
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Publishing, Messenger Hymns

### *O Love that Will Not Let Me Go*

**O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
that in Thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.**

**O Light that follow'st all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.**

Words by George Matheson (1882). Music by Christopher Miner (1997)  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN; music: ©1997 Miner, Christopher

## **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**





## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Colossians 3:1-2*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

**I love Thy kingdom, Lord,  
the house of Thine abode,  
the church our blest Redeemer saved  
with His own precious blood.**

**I love Thy church, O God:  
her walls before Thee stand.  
dear as the apple of Thine eye  
and graven on Thy hand.**

**For her my tears shall fall,  
for her my prayers ascend;  
to her my cares and toils be giv'n,  
till toils and cares shall end.**

**Beyond my highest joy  
I prize her heavenly ways,  
her sweet communion, solemn vows,  
her hymns of love and praise.**

**Jesus, Thou Friend divine,  
our Savior and our King,  
Thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe  
shall great deliv'rance bring.**

**Sure as Thy truth shall last,  
to Zion shall be giv'n  
the brightest glories earth can yield,  
and brighter bliss of heaven.**

Words by Timothy Dwight (1800). Music by Aaron Williams (1763).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

# SERVICE OF ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

## ***Questions to the Candidate:***

- Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
- Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
- Do you accept the office of deacon in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
- Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
- Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity, and edification of the Church?

## ***Questions to the Congregation:***

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as deacon, and do you promise to yield to him all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which his office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles him?

If you do, please raise your right hand.

## ***Laying on of Hands and Prayer***

### ***Right Hand of Fellowship and Pronouncement***

### ***Exhortation***

# 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

*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.*

# PRAYER | MEDITATION

## 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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Scripture text from

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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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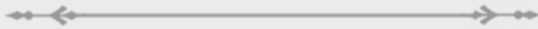
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## ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

**Meeting Address:** 8224 220<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

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