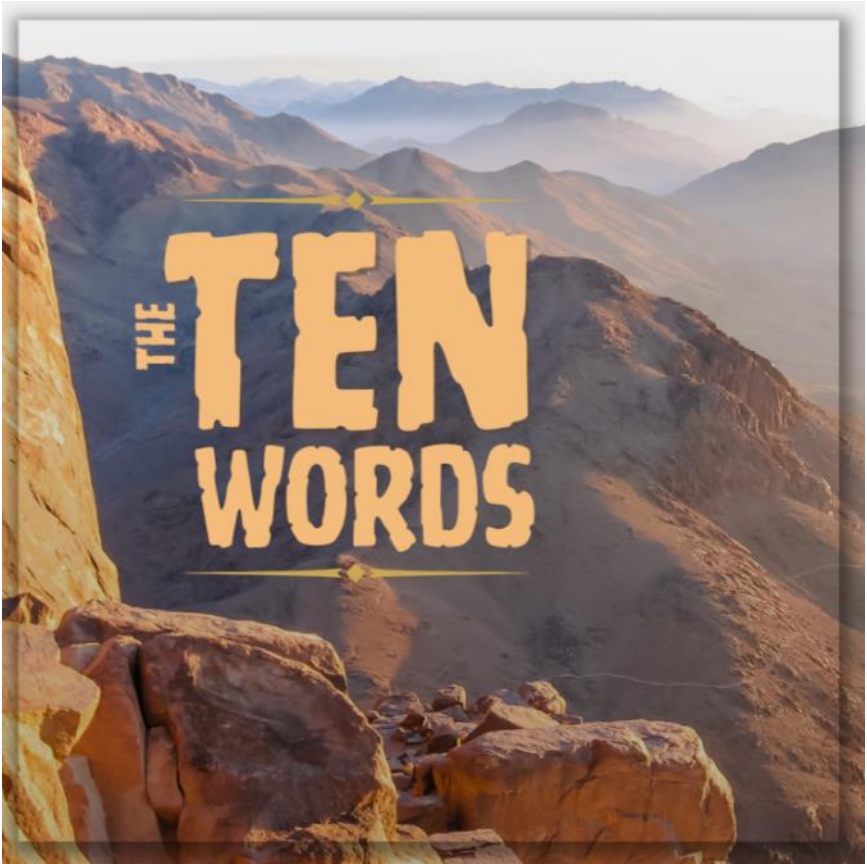




**Ascension** PCA

**March 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**

O Source of all good,  
what shall I render to Thee for the gift of gifts,  
Thine own dear Son, begotten, not created,  
my Redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute,  
His self-emptying incomprehensible,  
His infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds,  
and enlarge my mind.

Let me hear good tidings of great joy,  
and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,  
my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,  
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father.

Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart,  
embrace Him with undying faith,  
exulting that He is mine and I am His.

*~ from The Valley of Vision*

# 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

*Nehemiah 9:5b,6 & Psalm 89:52*

- M: Stand up and bless the LORD your God  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Blessed be Your glorious name,  
which is exalted above all blessing and praise.
- P: **You are the LORD, You alone.  
You have made the heaven,  
the heaven of heavens, with all their host,  
the earth and all that is on it,  
the seas and all that is in them;  
and You preserve all of them;  
and the host of heaven worships You.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Behold Our God*

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.  
All creation rises to rejoice.**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.***

***Come, let us adore Him.***

***Behold our King! Nothing can compare.***

***Come, let us adore Him!***

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the One who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.***

***Come, let us adore Him.***

***Behold our King! Nothing can compare.***

***Come, let us adore Him!***

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave,  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

**Behold our God, seated on His throne.  
Come, let us adore Him.  
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.  
Come, let us adore ...**

**Behold our God, seated on His throne.  
Come, let us adore Him.  
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.  
Come, let us adore Him!**

Words and music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)  
© 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

### *Tell Out, My Soul*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers, dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961);  
Music by Holly Dutton (2001);  
Words: ©1961 Hope Publishing Company. Music: ©2001 Dutton, Holly

## **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 12:1-11*

*Elder Philip Suh*

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Our Merciful Father in Heaven,  
We praise You that Your love in Christ  
is without measure.**

**For we confess to You our sins  
of omission and commission,  
the sins that we know about and those we don't.**

**We plead no righteousness of our own,  
but cling to the finished work of Jesus,  
which needs no addition from our doings,  
and is satisfaction for all our sins.**

**In that name we plead and give thanks, 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

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin,  
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God

*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

*Rock of Ages*

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from Thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfil Thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to Thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to Thee for dress;  
helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
foul, I to the Fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when my eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776).

Music by James Ward (1985).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1985 James Ward Music

# 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 20:1-15*

<sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words, saying,

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

<sup>3</sup> You shall have no other gods before Me.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.



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

*“Stewardship”*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

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

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Matthew 2:11*

They bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heav'n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be Thine.**

Words from *Münster Gesangbuch* (1677); tr. by Joseph Seiss (1873).

Music from *Shlesische Volkslieder* (1842).

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

*from Ephesians 1*

**P: Because of His great love for us,  
God, who is rich in mercy,  
made us alive with Christ  
even when we were dead in transgressions —  
it is by grace we have been saved.  
And God raised us up with Christ  
and seated us with Him  
in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,  
in order that in the coming ages  
He might show the incomparable riches  
of His grace,  
expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.  
For it is by grace we have been saved,  
through faith —  
and this not from ourselves,  
it is the gift of God —  
It is not by works. None of us can boast.  
For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

## 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

*Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me*

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;  
there is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,  
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;  
for my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh, how strange and divine,  
I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;  
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,  
for in my need His power is displayed.

*To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;  
through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh, the night has been won,  
and I shall overcome.  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;  
the future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.

*To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh, the chains are released,  
I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

With every breath I long to follow Jesus;  
for He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day I know He will renew me,  
until I stand with joy before the throne.

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;  
all the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete,  
still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
When the race is complete,  
still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.  
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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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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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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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