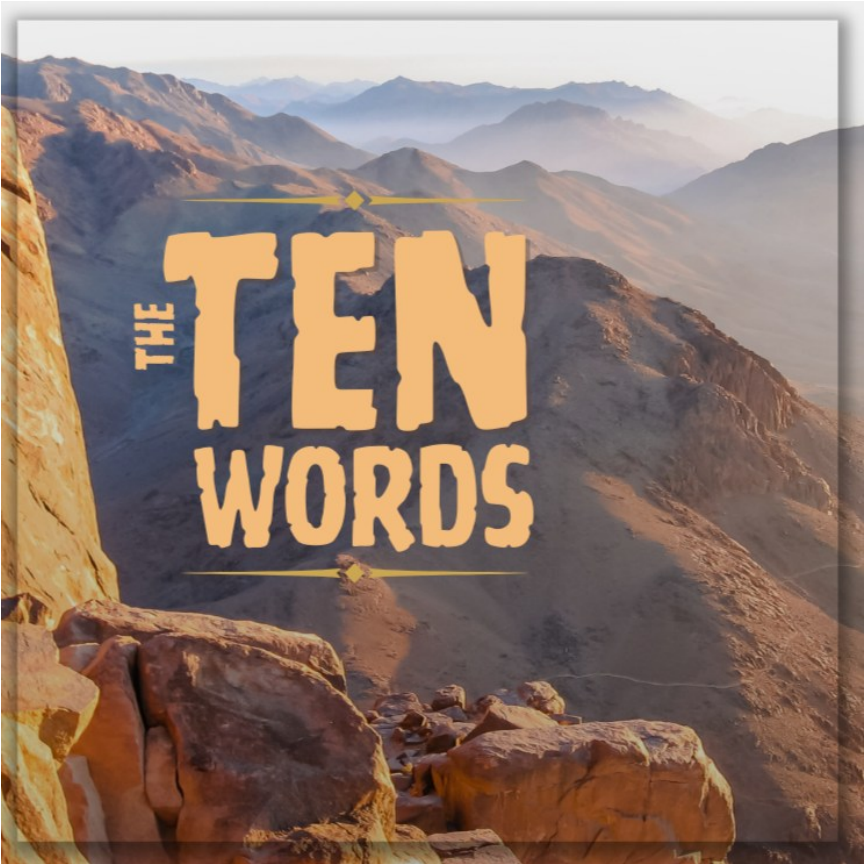




Ascension PCA

March 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

*One there is above all others, well deserves the name of Friend.
His is love beyond a brother's, costly, free, and knows no end.
They who once His kindness prove, find it everlasting love.*

*When He lived on earth abased, Friend of sinners was His name.
Now above all glory raised, He rejoices in the same.
Still He calls them brethren, friends, and to all their wants attends.*

*Could we bear from one another, what He daily bears from us?
Yet this glorious Friend and Brother, loves us though we treat Him thus.
Though for good we render ill, He accounts us brethren still.*

*Oh for grace our hearts to soften! Teach us, Lord, at length to love!
We, alas, forget too often, what a Friend we have above.
But when home our souls are brought, we will love Thee as we ought.*

~ John Newton

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

from Colossians 2:13-14 & Psalm 32:11

M: Grace and peace to you who were dead in your sins, for God has made you alive with Christ and forgiven all your sins.

Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing all you who are now upright in heart!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come, Thou Almighty King

**Come, thou Almighty King,
help us Thy name to sing,
help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

**Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
gird on Thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend.
Come, and Thy people bless,
and give Thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend.**

**Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.**

**To the great One in Three
eternal praises be,
hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.**

Words Anonymous (ca. 1757). Music by Felice de Giardini (1769).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

This Is Our God

**God our Father, full of power,
Maker of the heavens, Maker of the world;
forming all things, seen and unseen,
truly the Almighty, beyond all measure worth;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,
born unto a virgin, lived a perfect life;
greatly suffered, dying for us.
From the grave He's risen, seated now on high;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,
speaking through the prophets,
empowering the Church;
life is given by and through Him,
with the Son and Father, worshipped and adored;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

Words and music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce,
Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones (2015).

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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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Elder Theo Vander Wel

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?

¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Heavenly Father,

**We confess our relentless self-interest and pride,
and we ask for the grace to change.**

**Forgive us for our daily failure to submit our lives to Your will,
and for failing to live with one another
in an understanding way.**

**Lord Jesus, Your life of selfless service to others,
and Your willing death in our place, give us all that we need
to stand with confidence and joy before Your holy Father.
Thank you for being our faithful substitute in life and in
death.**

**Holy Spirit, we cannot lead the lives of sacrificial service
to others to which we are called unless You change our
hard and self-centered hearts.**

**We desperately need Your truth to convict us,
Your love to make us grateful for all You have done,
Your courage to compel us to submit ourselves willingly
to one another,
and Your power to help us love others in their need.**

Have mercy on us. Transform us we pray.

In Jesus' Name. 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

Colossians 1:11-14

M: May you be strengthened with all power,
according to His glorious might,
for all endurance and patience with joy,
giving thanks to the Father,

Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance
of the saints in light.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

My Glorious Hope

**Though waves of troubles come
and pour in like a flood,
my soul will not despair.
Within Your sovereign arms,
no valley is too dark
to keep me from Your care.
Your presence and Your promises
are joy and life to me.**

*Jesus, You're my glorious hope;
ever faithful to Your own.
You have filled my nights
with Your sweet song of grace.
Jesus You're my glorious hope;
my glorious hope.*

**When condemnations rise,
when failures fill my eyes,
remind me once again:
That my sufficiency
is found upon the tree
that bought my righteousness.
The depth of Your unchanging love,
displayed on Calvary.**

*Jesus, You're my glorious hope;
ever faithful to Your own.
You have filled my nights
with Your sweet song of grace.
Jesus You're my glorious hope;
my glorious hope.*

Music and words by Steve and Vicki Cook (2003).
© 2003 Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music)

SONG OF PREPARATION

Speak, O Lord

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,
to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness;
That the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all Your purposes for Your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.**

**Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail —
let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us —
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.**

**And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built,
and the earth is filled with Your glory.**

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
© 2005 Thankyou 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 20:16 & Ephesians 4:25

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

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

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

Words by Edward Mote (1834); music by John Stainer (1863).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God
and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?

Do you acknowledge your need for the grace of God,
humbling yourself,
offering no morality or righteousness of your own,
but asking only for the mercy of God in Christ?

Do you accept Christ as the sacrifice for your sin,
as the Prophet for all your truth,
and as the King of all your life,
resting on Him and His righteousness alone
for your salvation?

Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling
by reliance on the Holy Spirit
according to the Word of God?

Do you promise to support this communion
with your prayers and offerings,
to strive for its purity and peace,
and to submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

TO THE BODY OF CHRIST: (PLEASE STAND)

M: Do you as a congregation, now welcome these these brothers
and sisters as a members of this body?

P: We do.

M: Do you promise to take seriously your responsibilities
to build them up and to seek to practice with them
true Christian community and true Biblical church life?

P: We do.

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 Westminster Confession of Faith, Chap. VIII; I,V

**P: It pleased God, in His eternal purpose,
to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus,**

**His only begotten Son,
to be the Mediator between God and man,
the Prophet, Priest, and King,
the Head and Savior of His church,
the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world:
to whom He did from all eternity give a people,
to be His seed, and to be by Him in time redeemed,
called, justified, sanctified and glorified.**

**The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience,
and sacrifice of Himself,
which He, through the eternal Spirit,
once offered up unto God,
has fully satisfied the justice of His Father;
and purchased, not only reconciliation,
but an everlasting inheritance
in the kingdom of heaven,
for all those whom the Father has given to Him.**

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

He Was Wounded

**He was wounded for our transgressions,
He bore our sins in His body on the tree;
For our guilt He gave us peace,
from our bondage gave release,
and with His stripes, and with His stripes,
and with His stripes our souls are healed.**

**He was numbered among transgressors,
we did esteem Him forsaken by His God;
As our sacrifice He died,
that the law be satisfied,
and all our sin, and all our sin,
and all our sin was laid on Him.**

**We had wandered, we all had wandered
far from the fold of “the Shepherd of the sheep”;
But He sought us where we were,
on the mountains bleak and bare,
and brought us home, and brought us home,
and brought us safely home to God.**

**Who can number His generation?
Who shall declare all the triumphs of His cross?
Millions, dead, now live again,
myriads follow in His train!
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,
victorious Lord and coming King!
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,
victorious Lord and coming King!**

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm (1920).
Music by Joseph N. Partain (1977).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music © 2015 Nathan Partain

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
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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