



Ascension PCA

April 20, 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 Bible speaks of hope as something *we have*.
It is about looking forward to something that is certain.
I have the hope of eternity with Christ.
We still don't control the thing for which we have hope,
but God does and has promised eternity to us.
There is no degree of risk or disappointment.
This hope cannot be frustrated by anyone.
Unlike all our other expressions of hope,
this is a hope that won't disappoint us.
It is guaranteed by God Himself and bears His signature:
the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

~ Sam Allberry

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

M: Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed!

M: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. *(1 Corinthians 15:20)*

**P: Praise be to the LORD,
for He has showed His wonderful love to us!** *(Psalm 31:21)*

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
(1 Peter 1:3)

**P: Praise be to the name of God forever and ever;
wisdom and power are His!** *(Daniel 2:20)*

M: Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?
The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law. *(1 Corinthians 15:55-56)*

**P: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ!** *(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

M: Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place
and gave Him the name that is above every name.
(Philippians 2:9)

**P: Praise be to His glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with His glory!** *(Psalm 72:19)*

M: Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,
set your hearts on things above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. *(Colossians 3:1)*

**P: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!** *(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

M: Let all the people say...

P: Amen! *(Psalm 106:48)*

**All: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him the glory!**
(Revelation 19:6-7)

SONGS OF PRAISE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today,"	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Sons of men and angels say;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Raise your joys and triumphs high;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.	<i>Alleluia!</i>

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Christ has burst the gates of hell:	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Death in vain forbids His rise;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Christ has opened paradise.	<i>Alleluia!</i>

Lives again our glorious King;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Where, O death, is now thy sting?	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Once He died, our souls to save;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Where thy victory, O grave?	<i>Alleluia!</i>

Soar we now where Christ has led,	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Foll'wing our exalted Head;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Made like Him, like Him we rise:	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.	<i>Alleluia!</i>

Words by Charles Wesley (1739). Music from *Lyra Davidica* (1708; alt.)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, People of the Risen King

**Come, people of the risen King,
who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
to the Morning Star of grace.**

**From the shifting shadows of the earth
we will lift our eyes to Him,
where steady arms of mercy reach
to gather children in.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
and those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
and those struggling in the fight.**

**For His perfect love will never change,
and His mercies never cease,
but follow us through all our days
with the certain hope of peace.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, young and old from every land,
men and women of the faith.**

**Come, those with full or empty hands,
find the riches of His grace.**

**Over all the world, His people sing,
shore to shore we hear them call
the Truth that cries through every age:
our God is all in all!**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.
© 2002 Thankyou 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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 15

- ¹ O LORD, who shall sojourn in Your tent?
Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?
- ² He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;
- ³ who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
- ⁴ in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the LORD;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
- ⁵ who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Loving Father,
You know our inmost thoughts
and the doubts that shake us.
With our lips we confess that we believe in the resurrection,
but our persistent fears betray our unbelief.
We say that in Christ we have everything we need
for life and death,
yet when our possessions, health, reputations, jobs
or families are threatened with loss or danger,
we fret and fall apart.
We know we will one day have new, glorious bodies,
but we are quickly undone when our earthly bodies fail us.
We run from discomfort and pain,
and even withdraw from others who are suffering,
unwilling to do the costly work of loving them well
in their distress.
Father, forgive our unbelief.
Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life.
You entered into this world of suffering and death
and gave Yourself over into the hands of those
who hated You and were determined to kill You.
Yet, in Your darkest moments,
You fixed Your eyes on the joy that was set before You:
that after the resurrection You would possess us
as Your people forever. Thank you.
Holy Spirit, You are the One who brings life
to our dead souls,
and will one day bring life back to these mortal bodies also.
When we cannot believe well
and we run to find comfort in earthly pleasures,
strengthen our faith.
Help our unbelief.
In all of our trials and difficulties,
fix our eyes on our heavenly inheritance,
which is stored up for us in Christ
in a place where no power in heaven, on earth,
or under the earth can touch it.
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 Romans 4:24-25

God accounts all sinners who confess the Name of Christ
and believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead
as sinless. He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.

In Him our sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

There is One Gospel

**There is one Gospel on which I stand
for all eternity.**

It is my story, my Father's plan.

The Son has rescued me.

Oh what a Gospel, oh what a peace.

My highest joy and my deepest need.

Now and forever, He is my light.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**There is one Gospel to which I cling,
all else I count as loss.**

**For there, where justice and mercy meet,
He saved me on the cross.**

**No more I boast in what I can bring,
no more I carry the weight of sin.**

For He has brought me from death to life.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**There is one Gospel where hope is found,
the empty tomb still speaks.**

**For death could not keep my Saviour down,
He lives and I am free.**

**Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,
my life is His and His hope is mine.**

For He has promised I too will rise.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**And in this Gospel, the church is one,
we do not walk alone.**

**We have His Spirit as we press on
to lead us safely home.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.**

Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson (2022).
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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

2 Corinthians 4:13–18

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence.

¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

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

"Don't Lose Heart"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

The Derwin Family

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 brothers and sisters as a members of this body?

P: We do.

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

P: We do.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jace, Beau, Molly, and Eleanor Derwin

Do you acknowledge your children's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you acknowledge that although they are conceived and born in sin, and therefore are subject to condemnation, they, as children of believers, being born within the covenant community, are set apart in Christ, and as members of His visible church, ought to be baptized?

Do you realize that this sacrament does not give salvation to them, but they must, by God's grace, come to faith, repentance, and obedience when they reach the age of discretion?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on their behalf and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you realize that in this sacrament you, as parents, are covenanting with God to raise them in the instruction and discipline of the Lord?

And do you now acknowledge that they belong to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace,

to set before them a godly example,
to pray with and for them,
to teach them the doctrines of the gospel and of our holy religion,
and to strive by all the means that God has appointed,
to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

TO THE BODY OF CHRIST: (PLEASE STAND)

M: Do you as a congregation promise to undertake
the responsibility of encouraging, praying for, and as God
gives you opportunity, assisting Jace and Brittany in the
Christian nurture of their children?

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

Romans 8:11, 16-17, 31-32, 35a, 37-39

M: If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life
to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**P: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs —
heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,
provided we suffer with Him in order that
we may also be glorified with Him.**

M: What then shall we say to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all,
how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

**P: For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus.**

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

(I Know That) My Redeemer Lives

**I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, Who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living Head.**

**He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to lead me safely there.**

**He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives and I shall conquer death;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing.
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!
He lives, all glory to His Name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
And oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

*Words by Samuel Medley.
Music by John Hatton; arr. by Bob Bennett.
PUBLIC DOMAIN.*

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

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.

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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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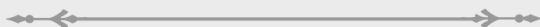
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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