



# Ascension PCA

April 27, 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.

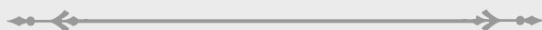
## **To Parents of Young Children:**

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

Blessed be the Lord for another day of mercy,  
even though I am now weary with its toils.

To the preserver of humankind I lift up my song of gratitude.

The dove found no rest out of the ark,  
and therefore returned to it;

similarly, my soul has learned more fully than ever today  
that there is no satisfaction to be found in earthly things —  
God alone can give rest to my spirit.

*Lord, I present You my grateful acknowledgments for tender mercies  
which have been new every morning and fresh every evening;  
and now, I pray You, put forth Your hand  
and take Your dove into Your bosom.*

~ Charles Spurgeon

# 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 66:1-4*

M: Shout for joy to God, all the earth!  
Sing the glory of His name;  
make His praise glorious.  
Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!  
So great is Your power  
that Your enemies cringe before You."

**P: "All the earth bows down to You;  
they sing praise to You,  
they sing the praises of Your name."**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Psalm 104*

**My soul bless the LORD!  
LORD God You are great!  
With honor arrayed,  
majestic in state,  
You cover Yourself  
with a garment of light,  
and stretch out the sky  
as a curtain by night.**

**The beams of Your courts  
in waters You laid;  
on wings of the wind,  
Your pathway You made.  
The clouds are Your chariot;  
the winds do Your will;  
the flames and the lightnings  
Your pleasure fulfill.**

**I'll sing to the LORD,  
as long as I live,  
sing praise to my God  
while life He will give.**

**My vast thoughts about Him  
will pleasure afford,  
for I am rejoicing  
each day in the LORD.**

Words from Psalm 104; *The Trinity Psalter*.

Music by Johan Michael Haydn (1737–1806).

Words: © 2012 Crown and Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens*

**Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore Him;  
praise Him angels, in the height;  
sun and moon, rejoice before Him;  
praise Him, all ye stars of light.**

**Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;  
worlds His mighty voice obeyed;  
laws which never shall be broken  
for their guidance He hath made.**

***All creation join the song of praise.  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
and we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
all of our days!***

**Praise the Lord! for He is glorious;  
never shall His promise fail;  
God hath made His saints victorious;  
sin and death shall not prevail.**

***All creation join the song of praise.  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
and we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
all of our days!***

***Glory, glory, all glory to You, Lord!  
Glory, glory, all glory to You, Lord!  
Glory, glory, all glory to You, Lord!***

**Praise the God of our salvation!  
hosts on high, His power proclaim;  
heaven and earth, and all creation  
laud and magnify His Name!**

***All creation join the song of praise.  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
and we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
all of our days!  
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
all of our days!***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.

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## *Step by Step*

**Oh God, You are my God  
and I will ever praise You.**

**Oh God, You are my God  
and I will ever praise You.**

**I will seek You in the morning  
and I will learn to walk in Your ways,  
and step by step You'll lead me,  
and I will follow You all of my days.**

**Oh God, You are my God  
and I will ever praise You.**

**Oh God, You are my God  
and I will ever praise You.**

**I will seek You in the morning  
and I will learn to walk in Your ways,  
and step by step You'll lead me,  
and I will follow You all of my days.**

Words and music by David (Beaker) Strasser (1992).

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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**

*Psalms 97*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

- 1 The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!
- 2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around Him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.
- 3 Fire goes before Him  
and burns up His adversaries all around.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the LORD of all the earth.

- <sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim His righteousness,  
and all the peoples see His glory.
- <sup>7</sup> All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
who make their boast in worthless idols;  
worship Him, all you gods!
- <sup>8</sup> Zion hears and is glad,  
and the daughters of Judah rejoice,  
because of Your judgments, O LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
You are exalted far above all gods.
- <sup>10</sup> O you who love the LORD, hate evil!  
He preserves the lives of His saints;  
He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup> Light is sown for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.
- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to His holy name!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God,  
unto Whom all hearts are open  
and all desires known,  
and before Whom no secrets are hidden  
and every private wish known as if it were spoken aloud,  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the power and grace of Your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may love You  
and magnify Your holy name.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord 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

*Ephesians 1:8-9*

For by grace you have been saved through faith.  
And this is not your own doing:  
it is the gift of God, not a result of works,  
so that no one may boast.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Through the Precious Blood*

**You have ordained every breath we take,  
in pleasure or pain there is no mistake.  
Gladness and grief, both are in Your hands,  
and sufferings brief carry out Your plan.**

**And our fleeting sorrows  
will yield an endless prize,  
when some bright tomorrow  
we'll see You with our eyes.**

***And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down;  
And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down  
through the precious blood of Christ.***

**Father of lights, Giver of all grace,  
Your mercies crown our lives all our days;  
River of life quench our thirsty souls,  
for no true delight does Your love withhold.**

**And in every season  
we are satisfied,  
for just one reason:  
Christ was crucified.**

***And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down;  
And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down ...***

***And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down;  
And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down  
through the precious blood of Christ.***

Words and music by Mark 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

### *Philemon*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup> and Apphia our sister  
and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:  
<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,  
<sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward  
the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, <sup>6</sup> and I pray that the sharing of  
your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every  
good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup> For I have derived  
much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the  
hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you  
to do what is required, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to  
you — I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ  
Jesus — <sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father  
I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you,  
but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him  
back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup> I would have been glad to  
keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf  
during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do  
nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might  
not be by compulsion but of your own accord. <sup>15</sup> For this perhaps  
is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him  
back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a bondservant but more than a  
bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how  
much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would  
receive me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything,  
charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand:  
I will repay it — to say nothing of your owing me even your own  
self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord.  
Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will  
do even more than I say. <sup>22</sup> At the same time, prepare a guest room  
for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be  
graciously given to you.

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, <sup>24</sup> and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

<sup>25</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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

## *"Radical Forgiveness"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

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

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*James 1:17*

Every good and perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of lights  
with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!*

**Jesus, what a Friend for sinners!  
Jesus, lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,  
He, my Savior, makes me whole.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah! what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus! What a strength in weakness!  
Let me hide myself in Him.  
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,  
He, my strength, my victory wins.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah! what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus, I do now receive Him,  
more than all in Him I find;  
He hath granted me forgiveness,  
I am His, and He is mine.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah! what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He is with me to the end.***

***Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He is with me to the end.***

Words by J. Wilbur Chapman (1910).  
Music by Rowland H. Pritchard (1855).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

# SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*John Jackson Rutherford*

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

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

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

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

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

And do you now acknowledge that he belongs to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace, to set before him a godly example, to pray with and for him, to teach him the doctrines of the gospel and of our holy religion, and to strive by all the means that God has appointed, to bring him 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 Jason and Megan in the Christian nurture of this child?

**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.

## EUCCHARISTIC 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.*

## SONG OF MEDITATION

*When Peace Like a River*

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."**

*It is well, (it is well)*  
*with my soul; (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed His own blood for my soul.**

*It is well, (it is well)*  
*with my soul; (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**My sin — O the bliss of this glorious thought! —  
my sin — not in part, but the whole —  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

*It is well (it is well),*  
*with my soul; (with my soul);*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.**

*It is well, (it is well)*  
*with my soul; (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*It is well, (it is well)*  
*with my soul; (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Words by Horatio Gates Spafford (1873). Music by Philip P. Bliss (1876)  
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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.

## **STAFF & LEADERSHIP**

### **PASTOR:**

**Rev. Nate Hitchcock**

*nate@ascension-pca.org*

### **PASTOR EMERITUS:**

**Rev. Ed Volz**

*volz.edw@gmail.com*

### **OFFICE MANAGER:**

**Rina Kroes**

*office@ascension-pca.org*

### **ELDERS:**

**Brett Chase**

*brett@ascension-pca.org*

**C.J. DeGroot**

*cjdegroot@ascension-pca.org*

**Chris Sledge**

*chris@ascension-pca.org*

**Philip Suh**

*philipsuh@ascension-pca.org*

**Theo Vander Wel**

*theo@ascension-pca.org*

**Brian Walsh**

*brian@ascension-pca.org*

### **DEACONS:**

**Kyle Bartlett**

*kyle@ascension-pca.org*

**Bob Briest**

*bob\_briest@ascension-pca.org*

**Mike Wheeler**

*mike@ascension-pca.org*

**Garret Holt**

*garret@ascension-pca.org*

### **MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):**

**Dave Ball**

*dave@daveball.net*

### **HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:**

**Monica Sledge**

*cmkesledge@gmail.com*

### **NURSERY COORDINATOR:**

**Anna Hitchcock** [temp]

*hitchcrew@gmail.com*

### **MEAL COORDINATOR:**

**Sheila Bloedow**

*s.bloedow@comcast.net*



## **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*