



# Ascension PCA

May 11, 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**

God loves the church with a love  
too deep for human imagination:  
He loves her with all His infinite heart...

You may fear that the Lord has passed you by,  
but it is not so:

He who counts the stars, and calls them by their names,  
is in no danger of forgetting His own children.

He knows your case as thoroughly as if you were  
the only creature He ever made,  
or the only saint He ever loved.

Approach Him and be at peace.

*~ 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!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 9:1-10*

**P: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and exult in You;  
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.**

**M:** When my enemies turn back,  
they stumble and perish before Your presence.  
For You have maintained my just cause;  
You have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.  
You have rebuked the nations;  
You have made the wicked perish;  
You have blotted out their name forever and ever.  
The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins;  
their cities You rooted out;  
the very memory of them has perished.

**P: But the LORD sits enthroned forever;  
He has established His throne for justice,  
and He judges the world with righteousness;  
He judges the peoples with uprightness.  
The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.  
And those who know Your name put their trust in You,  
for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

**Praise to the Lord,  
the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is  
thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear,  
now to His temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord,  
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under His wings,  
yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,  
who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,  
decked thee with health, and with loving hand  
guided and stayed thee.  
How oft in grief  
hath not He brought thee relief,  
spreading His winds to o'er shade thee!**

**Praise to the Lord!  
O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him!  
Let the amen sound from His people again,  
gladly fore'er we adore Him!  
Let the amen  
sound from His people again,  
gladly for aye we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863).  
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665).  
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### *Only a Holy God*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.**

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.*

**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God,  
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,  
Rich Thompson.  
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and CityAlight 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.

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

*Elder Chris Sledge*

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that He was buried, that He was raised on the third

day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O God, You have shown us the way of life  
through Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**We confess with shame  
our slowness to learn of Him,  
our failure to follow Him,  
and our reluctance to bear the cross.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.**

**We confess the poverty of our worship,  
our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace,  
our hesitating witness for Christ,  
our evasion of responsibilities in our service,  
our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. 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

*John 6:40*

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Psalm 42*

**Why my soul are you downcast?  
Why are you troubled within?  
For I will hope in my Saviour, my God  
and will praise Him, yet praise Him again.**

**Why my soul are you downcast?  
Why are you troubled within?  
For I will hope in my Saviour, my God  
and will praise Him, yet praise Him again.**

***Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.  
I will praise Him yet, praise Him again.***

***Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.  
I will praise Him yet, praise Him again.***

**Morning by morning, new mercies are streaming.  
I trust in Your goodness where I cannot see.  
You have been faithful whenever I wandered.  
Lord, give me the hope that I need.**

**Morning by morning, new mercies are streaming.  
I trust in Your goodness where I cannot see.  
You have been faithful whenever I wandered.  
Lord, give me the hope that I need.**

***Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.  
I will praise Him yet, praise Him again.***

**Why my soul are you downcast?  
Why are you troubled within?  
For I will hope in my Saviour, my God  
and will praise Him, yet praise Him again.**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson & Tiarne Tranter.  
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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

*Job 2:11 – 3:26*

<sup>11</sup> Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. <sup>12</sup> And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. <sup>13</sup> And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

<sup>1</sup> After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

<sup>2</sup> And Job said:

<sup>3</sup> "Let the day perish on which I was born,  
and the night that said,  
'A man is conceived.'  
<sup>4</sup> Let that day be darkness!  
May God above not seek it,  
nor light shine upon it.  
<sup>5</sup> Let gloom and deep darkness claim it.  
Let clouds dwell upon it;  
let the blackness of the day terrify it.  
<sup>6</sup> That night — let thick darkness seize it!  
Let it not rejoice among the days of the year;  
let it not come into the number of the months.  
<sup>7</sup> Behold, let that night be barren;  
let no joyful cry enter it.  
<sup>8</sup> Let those curse it who curse the day,  
who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.  
<sup>9</sup> Let the stars of its dawn be dark;  
let it hope for light, but have none,  
nor see the eyelids of the morning,  
<sup>10</sup> because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb,  
nor hide trouble from my eyes.  
<sup>11</sup> Why did I not die at birth,  
come out from the womb and expire?  
<sup>12</sup> Why did the knees receive me?  
Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?  
<sup>13</sup> For then I would have lain down and been quiet;  
I would have slept; then I would have been at rest,  
<sup>14</sup> with kings and counselors of the earth  
who rebuilt ruins for themselves,  
<sup>15</sup> or with princes who had gold,  
who filled their houses with silver.

16 Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child,  
as infants who never see the light?  
17 There the wicked cease from troubling,  
and there the weary are at rest.  
18 There the prisoners are at ease together;  
they hear not the voice of the taskmaster.  
19 The small and the great are there,  
and the slave is free from his master.  
20 Why is light given to him who is in misery,  
and life to the bitter in soul,  
21 who long for death, but it comes not,  
and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,  
22 who rejoice exceedingly  
and are glad when they find the grave?  
23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden,  
whom God has hedged in?  
24 For my sighing comes instead of my bread,  
and my groanings are poured out like water.  
25 For the thing that I fear comes upon me,  
and what I dread befalls me.  
26 I am not at ease, nor am I quiet;  
I have no rest, but trouble comes."

## 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

*"From Silence to Lament"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

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

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Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:

*"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name."*

Blessed be Your name  
when the sun's shining down on me,  
when the world's "all as it should be,"  
blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name  
on the road marked with suffering,  
though there's pain in the offering,  
blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:

*"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name."*

*"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name."*

You give and take away.  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say:  
*"Lord, blessed be Your name."*

You give and take away.  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say:  
*"Lord, blessed be Your name."*

# 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

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

**My Jesus, I love Thee; I know Thou art mine.  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;  
If ever I loved Thee,  
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,  
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.  
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;  
If ever I loved Thee,  
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I'll love Thee in life; I will love Thee in death,  
and praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath.  
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:  
If ever I loved Thee,  
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown upon my brow:  
If ever I loved Thee,  
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

Words by William Ralph Featherstone (1864).  
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon (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.

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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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