



Ascension PCA

June 15, 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

You are the God of gods, because there is no God *like* You,
and there is no God *but* You.

There are only wannabe-gods and demigods,
handmade idols and cultural currencies,
empty nothings and broken cisterns.

You are the thrice-holy God — eternal and glorious,
and You love us more than we can *possibly* imagine or grasp.

Father, having given Jesus to be the Lamb of God on our behalf,
You raised and installed Him as the Lord of lords
and King of kings.

Jesus has the hearts of every other king in His hands.
He rules over and in *all* things, for our good and Your glory.
Nothing and no one can alter or resist His lordship,
for He is making *all* things new.

O, the security of the occupied throne of heaven
and the steadfast love of our God!

~ *Scotty Smith*

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 1 Kings 8:56-57

M: Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel
just as He promised.

Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave
through his servant Moses or any of His prophets.

P: **May the LORD our God be with us as He was with our fathers;
may He never leave us nor forsake us.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

How Great Thou Art

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"**

***Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***

Words by Carl Gustav Boberg; translated by Stuart K. Hine (1949)
Swedish Folk Melody, arr. by Stuart K. Kline (1949)
© 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. by Hope Publishing Company

From The Rising Of The Sun (Psalm 113)

**Hallelujah, give praise, you servants.
Praise the name of the Lord.
Let the name of the Lord be blessed
for now and forevermore.**

***From the rising of the sun
to its going down.
Let the name of the Lord be praised
from the rising of the sun.***

**The Lord is high above all nations
and His glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God
Who sits enthroned on high?
Who is like the Lord our God?
Stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth.**

***From the rising of the sun
to its going down.
Let the name of the Lord be praised
from the rising of the sun,
from the rising of the sun.***

**Hallelujah, give praise, you servants.
Praise the name of the Lord.
Let the name of the Lord be blessed
for now and forevermore.**

***From the rising of the sun
to its going down.
Let the name of the Lord be praised
from the rising of the sun.***

**The Lord is high above all nations
and His glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God
Who sits enthroned on high?
Who is like the Lord our God?
Stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth.**

***From the rising of the sun
to its going down.
Let the name of the Lord be praised
from the rising of the sun,
from the rising of the sun,
from the rising of the sun.***

Words and music by Sandra McCracken (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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 97

Elder Chris Sledge

- 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.
- ⁶ The heavens proclaim His righteousness,
and all the peoples see His glory.
- ⁷ All worshipers of images are put to shame,
who make their boast in worthless idols;
worship Him, all you gods!

- 8 Zion hears and is glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoice,
because of Your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For You, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
You are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 O You who love the LORD, hate evil!
He preserves the lives of His saints;
He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light is sown for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to His holy name!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Wonderful Savior,

**We thank You for Your wondrous grace and love
in bearing our sin in Your body on the cross.**

**May Your cross be to us the tree
that sweetens every bitterness in our lives;
the rod that blossoms with hope and beauty;
the vine that connects us to You,
the only source of all our strength.**

**We have died with You, have risen with You,
and are even now seated with You in heavenly places.**

And yet we find that sin continues to have power over us.

**We struggle to fix our eyes on You, to abide in You,
and instead follow the ways of the world.**

**We struggle to choose love for others
over pleasing ourselves.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Increase our joy in the cross of Christ,
and our wonder and admiration
for all that was accomplished there,
until our hearts melt
and our self-worship gives way
to delight in our salvation.**

We pray this in the name of our glorious Redeemer, 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

1 Peter 2:22-24

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth."
When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate;
when He suffered, He made no threats.
Instead, He entrusted himself to Him who judges justly.
He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,
so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness;
by His wounds you have been healed.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'neath the healing cleansing flood.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy, and peace.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
will be with me to the end.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

Words by Louisa M.R. Stead (1882).
Music by William J. Kirkpatrick (1882).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Romans 15:14–22

¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience — by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God — so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of Him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.”

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you.

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

"The No-Show Preacher "

Reverend Barry McWilliams

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Chronicles 29:14b

All things come from You, and of Your own have we given You.

SONG OF RESPONSE

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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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

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

**How deep the Father's love for us;
how vast beyond all measure,
that He would give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.**

**How great the pain of searing loss;
the Father turns His face away,
as wounds which mar the chosen One
bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross;
my guilt upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.**

**It was my sin that held Him there,
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.**

**Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

**Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Words & music by Stuart Townend (1995).
© 1995 ThankYou Music

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
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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

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