



Ascension PCA

June 22, 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

His *incarnation* — is love stooping.

His *sympathy* — is love weeping.

His *compassion* — is love supporting.

His *grace* — is love acting.

His *teaching* — is the voice of love.

His *silence* — is the repose of love.

His *patience* — is the restraint of love.

His *obedience* — is the labor of love.

His *suffering* — is the travail of love.

His *cross* — is the altar of love.

His *death* — is the burnt offering of love.

His *resurrection* — is the triumph of love.

His *ascension* into heaven — is the enthronement of love.

His *intercession* in heaven — is the prayer of love.

Such is the deep, the vast, the *boundless ocean of Christ's love!*

The soul muses in silent awe

as it gazes upon *this fathomless, limitless sea!*

~ Octavius Winslow

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

ending in the Lord's Prayer

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Ephesians 1

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world
to be holy and blameless in His sight.
In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons
through Jesus Christ,
in accordance with His pleasure and will —
to the praise of His glorious grace
which He has freely given us in the One He loves.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalms 66

**All lands to God in joyful sounds,
aloft your voices raise;
sing forth the honor of His name,
and glorious make His praise.
Sing forth the honor of His name,
and glorious make His praise.**

**Yes, all the earth shall worship Thee
and unto Thee shall sing;
and to Thy name most glorious,
their songs of praise shall bring.
And to Thy name most glorious,
their songs of praise shall bring.**

O all ye people, bless our God;
aloud proclaim His praise,
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
our feet from sliding stays.
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
our feet from sliding stays.

Words based on *Scottish Psalter* (1650), the *Book of Psalms* (1871),
and *The Psalter* (1912).

©1994 *Trinity Psalter*, Crown & Covenant Publications

Is He Worthy?

Do you feel the world is broken? **(We do)**
Do you feel the shadows deepen? **(We do)**
But do you know that all the dark won't stop
the light from getting through? **(We do)**
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **(We do)**

Is all creation groaning? **(It is)**
Is a new creation coming? **(It is)**
Is the glory of the Lord to be
the light within our midst? **(It is)**
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **(It is)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah
who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy
of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is!***

Does the Father truly love us? **(He does)**
Does the Spirit move among us? **(He does)**
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold
forever those He loves? **(He does)**
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **(He does)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah
who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave.***

***From ev'ry people and tribe,
every nation and tongue,
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God
to reign with the Son.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy
of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy, is He worthy,
is He worthy of this? He is!***

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is!

Words and music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive (2018).
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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 98

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for He has done marvelous things!
His right hand and His holy arm
have worked salvation for Him.
- 2 The LORD has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness
in the sight of the nations.
- 3 He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- 4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
- 5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!
- 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!
8 Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together
9 before the LORD, for He comes
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty Father, Eternal Son, and Holy Spirit,
we confess we have sinned against You.**

**Father, You have chosen us
before the foundation of the world,
but we have acted as if it were ours to choose You.**

**Lord Jesus, You have given Yourself for our salvation,
but we have often ignored or trampled over Your grace.**

**Holy Spirit, You have sought us out, and given us new life,
but we have often grieved You,
quenching Your sanctifying work.**

**Lord, have mercy on us,
and restore the joy of fellowship with You,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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

Isaiah 54:8, 43:25, 44:22

*"With everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD, your Redeemer.*

I, I am He

*who blots out your transgressions for My own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.*

Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

In Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

Believe this good news and live in peace. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Living Waters

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
rest beside these living waters.**

**Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.**

***There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.***

**Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters.
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.**

***There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.***

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless.
Christ, He is our living waters.**

***There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.***

Words and music by Ed Cash and Kristyn Getty.
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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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

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

“Where in the World are You?”

Pastor Ed Volz

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

based on Psalm 111:1

Let us give thanks to the LORD with all our being.
In the company of the upright, let us honor God
for the blessings and goodness we have received.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Light of the World

**Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven,
brilliant like the stars in the wintry sky.
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness,
shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.**

**Light of the World, from the beginning
the tragedies of time were no match for Your love.
From great heights of glory, You saw my story.
God, You entered in and became one of us.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

**Light of the world, crown in a manger,
born for the cross, to suffer, to save.
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer.
We are the richer by the price that He paid.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

**Light of the World, soon will be coming.
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory,
and there He shall reign forevermore.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

Words & music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash,
Martin Cash, Scott Cash

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Scott Cash Publishing Designee; We The Kingdom Music

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

Colossians 1:15-20

**P: [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For by Him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities —
all things were created through Him and for Him.
And He is before all things,
and in Him all things hold together.
And He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything He might be preeminent.
For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of His cross.**

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 Sweet and Awesome is the Place

**How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.**

**While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
“Lord, why was I a guest?”**

**“Why was I made to hear Thy voice,
and enter while there’s room,
when thousands make a wretched choice,
and rather starve than come?”**

**‘Twas the same love that spread the feast
that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.**

**Pity the nations, O our God,
constrain the earth to come;
send Thy victorious Word abroad,
and bring the strangers home.**

**We long to see Thy churches full,
that all the chosen race
may, with one voice and heart and soul,
sing Thy redeeming grace.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707; Alt. 1961, 1990, mod.)
Old Irish hymn melody (alt. 1990)
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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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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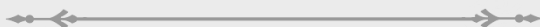
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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