



Ascension PCA

July 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

*Heavenly Father, we can trust You
with however You choose to write our stories.
You give and You take away —
but **always** and only to bring glory to Yourself.
When You wound us, ultimately, it's to heal us.
When You enrich us, it's to make us more generous.
When You wait, it's not to frustrate us,
but to write a better story than we'd choose for ourselves.
When You say "No" to our "good" requests,
it's because a better "Yes" is waiting in the wings.
Father, continue to renew our thinking and deepen our worship.
Once again, we humbly and gladly affirm
that you are the Author and Perfector of our faith.
Make the gospel bigger and sweeter,
that we might whine less and trust more.
In Jesus' sovereign and loving name we pray, Amen.*

~ 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

Psalm 66:1-4

- M: Shout with 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 praise to Your name."**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
God the Father reigning o'er us,
Jesus bringing life to man.**

**Ever singing, by the Spirit,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward,
in the blessed song of life.**

Words by Henry van Dyke (1907).

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

**What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

**What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

**Unto the grave, what will we sing?
"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

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

2 Corinthians 1:12-22

Elder Brett Chase

¹² For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. ¹³ For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand — ¹⁴ just as you did partially understand us — that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

¹⁵ Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.

¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ,

whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in Him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Forgive us our sins, O Lord.

**Forgive us the sins of our youth and the sins of our age,
the sins of our soul and the sins of our body,
our secret and our whispering sins,
our presumptuous and our careless sins.**

**Forgive us the sins that we know,
and the sins that we know not;
forgive them, O Lord,
forgive them all because of Your great goodness.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 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."

Believe this good news and live in peace.

In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

How High and How Wide

**No eye has seen,
and no ear has heard,
and no mind has ever conceived,
the glorious things
that You have prepared
for everyone who has believed;
You brought us near and You called us Your own,
and made us joint heirs with Your Son.**

***How high and how wide,
how deep and how long,
how sweet and how strong is Your love;
How lavish Your grace,
how faithful Your ways,
how great is Your love, O Lord!***

**Objects of mercy
who should have known wrath,
we're filled with unspeakable joy.
Riches of wisdom,
unsearchable wealth,
and the wonder of knowing Your voice.
You are our Treasure and our great Reward,
our Hope and our glorious King.**

***How high and how wide,
how deep and how long,
how sweet and how strong is Your love;
How lavish Your grace,
how faithful Your ways,
how great is Your love, O Lord!***

***How high and how wide,
how deep and how long,
how sweet and how strong is Your love;
How lavish Your grace,
how faithful Your ways,
how great is Your love, O Lord,
how great is Your love, O Lord!***

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 29:1-10, Job 30:1, 9-11, 18-21
Job 31:1-8, 13-15, 24-28, 35-37, 40b*

¹ And Job again took up his discourse, and said :

² "Oh, that I were as in the months of old,
³ as in the days when God watched over me,
⁴ when shone upon my head,
and by His light I walked through darkness,
⁵ as I was in my prime,
when the friendship of God was upon my tent,
⁶ when the Almighty was yet with me,
when my children were all around me,
⁷ when my steps were washed with butter,
and the rock poured out for me streams of oil!
⁸ When I went out to the gate of the city,
when I prepared my seat in the square,
⁹ the young men saw me and withdrew,
and the aged rose and stood;
¹⁰ the princes refrained from talking
and laid their hand on their mouth;
the voice of the nobles was hushed,
and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth.

¹ But now they laugh at me,
men who are younger than I,
whose fathers I would have disdained
to set with the dogs of my flock.

⁹ And now I have become their song;
I am a byword to them.
¹⁰ They abhor me; they keep aloof from me;
they do not hesitate to spit at the sight of me.
¹¹ Because God has loosed my cord and humbled me,
they have cast off restraint in my presence.

¹⁸ With great force my garment is disfigured;
it binds me about like the collar of my tunic.
¹⁹ God has cast me into the mire,
and I have become like dust and ashes.

20 I cry to You for help and You do not answer me;
I stand, and You only look at me.
21 You have turned cruel to me;
with the might of Your hand you persecute me.
1 I have made a covenant with my eyes;
how then could I gaze at a virgin?
2 What would be my portion from God above
and my heritage from the Almighty on high?
3 Is not calamity for the unrighteous,
and disaster for the workers of iniquity?
4 Does not He see my ways
and number all my steps?
5 If I have walked with falsehood
and my foot has hastened to deceit;
6 (Let me be weighed in a just balance,
and let God know my integrity!)
7 if my step has turned aside from the way
and my heart has gone after my eyes,
and if any spot has stuck to my hands,
8 then let me sow, and another eat,
and let what grows for me be rooted out."
13 If I have rejected the cause of my manservant
or my maidservant,
when they brought a complaint against me,
14 what then shall I do when God rises up?
When he makes inquiry, what shall I answer him?
15 Did not He who made me in the womb make him?
And did not One fashion us in the womb?
24 If I have made gold my trust
or called fine gold my confidence,
25 if I have rejoiced because my wealth was abundant
or because my hand had found much,
26 if I have looked at the sun when it shone,
or the moon moving in splendor,
27 and my heart has been secretly enticed,
and my mouth has kissed my hand,
28 this also would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges,
for I would have been false to God above.
35 Oh, that I had one to hear me!
(Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!)
Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!
36 Surely I would carry it on my shoulder;
I would bind it on me as a crown;
37 I would give Him an account of all my steps;
like a prince I would approach Him."

40b The words of Job are ended.

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

"What is Certain?"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 50:12, 14–15

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are Mine.
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,
and call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that Thou art —
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all ...
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905),
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

I Come By the Blood

**You are the perfect and righteous God
Whose presence bears no sin.
You bid me come to Your holy place.
How can I enter in,
when Your presence bears no sin?**

Through Him who poured out His life for me,
the atoning Lamb of God.
Through Him and His work alone,
I boldly come.

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

You are the high and exalted King,
the One the angels fear.
So far above me in every way,
Lord, how can I draw near
to the One the angels fear?

Through Him who laid down His life for me,
and ascended to Your side.
Through Him, through Jesus alone,
I boldly come.

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come ...*

*... by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (1994).
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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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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

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