



July 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

*Jesus lost all His glory so that we could be clothed in it.
He was shut out so we could get access.
He was bound, nailed, so that we could be free.
He was cast out so we could approach.*

*And Jesus took away the only kind of suffering
that can really destroy you:
that is being cast away from God.*

*He took that so that now all suffering that comes into your life
will only make you great.*

A lump of coal under pressure becomes a diamond.

*And the suffering of a person in Christ
only turns you into somebody gorgeous.*

~ Tim Keller

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 36:5-10

**P: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
Your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast You save, O LORD.**

M: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge
in the shadow of Your wings.
They feast on the abundance of Your house,
and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.
For with You is the fountain of life;
in Your light do we see light.

**P: Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You,
and Your righteousness to the upright of heart!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy!

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see.
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826). Music by John B. Dykes (1861).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

To God Be the Glory

**To God be the glory — great things He has done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in!**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood —
to every believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives!**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

**Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son.
But purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

Words by Fanny J. Crosby (1875).
Music by William Howard Doane (1875).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 1:23-2:11

Elder Philip Suh

²³ But I call God to witness against me — it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

¹ For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. ² For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? ³ And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. ⁴ For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

⁵ Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure — not to put it too severely — to all of you.

⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough,

⁷ so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ For this is why I wrote, that I might

test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.

¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Father, forgive our unbelief.

Jesus, thank You for Your fearless faith.

**Thank you that for the joy that was set before You,
You persevered through far greater pain and suffering
than anything we can even imagine.**

**Thank You that You will come back
and take us to be with You forever,
wiping away all our tears
and comforting at last our grieving and broken hearts.**

**Holy Spirit, help us to believe in Christ.
Help us to believe that in His death we died,
and that in His resurrection we are raised to new life.
Give us the joy and peace that should flow from that reality,
as we continue to face the broken world in which we live,
especially as we face the last enemy, death itself.**

**Help us to live in the light of our full forgiveness,
to share joyfully in His sufferings,
and to die with great confidence
in the sufficiency of Your grace to us in Jesus Christ.
In His name, 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

Hebrews 12:2

[Let us look] to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the
throne of God.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

**We will not be burned by the fire;
He is the Lord, our God.
We are not consumed by the flood;
upheld, protected, gathered up.**

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

**In the dark of night, before the dawn,
my soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.**

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

**Every vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
bind us together, bring shalom.**

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

Words and music by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore.
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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 32:1-10 / 33:1-13, 29-33 / 34:1-10, 35 / 35:1-5, 13-16
36:5-10, 24-26 / 37:1-4, 23-24*

¹ So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. ² Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. ³ He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong. ⁴ Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he. ⁵ And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger.

⁶ And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said:

"I am young in years,
and you are aged;
therefore I was timid and afraid
to declare my opinion to you.

7 I said, 'Let days speak,
and many years teach wisdom.'
8 But it is the spirit in man,
the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand.
9 It is not the old who are wise,
nor the aged who understand what is right.
10 Therefore I say, 'Listen to me;
let me also declare my opinion.'

1 But now, hear my speech, O Job,
and listen to all my words.
2 Behold, I open my mouth;
the tongue in my mouth speaks.
3 My words declare the uprightness of my heart,
and what my lips know they speak sincerely.
4 The Spirit of God has made me,
and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
5 Answer me, if you can;
set your words in order before me; take your stand.
6 Behold, I am toward God as you are;
I too was pinched off from a piece of clay.
7 Behold, no fear of me need terrify you;
my pressure will not be heavy upon you.
8 Surely you have spoken in my ears,
and I have heard the sound of your words.
9 You say, 'I am pure, without transgression;
I am clean, and there is no iniquity in me.
10 Behold, He finds occasions against me,
He counts me as his enemy,
11 He puts my feet in the stocks
and watches all my paths.'
12 Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you,
for God is greater than man.
13 Why do you contend against Him,
saying, 'He will answer none of man's words'?

29 Behold, God does all these things,
twice, three times, with a man,
30 to bring back his soul from the pit,
that he may be lighted with the light of life.
31 Pay attention, O Job, listen to me;
be silent, and I will speak.
32 If you have any words, answer me;
speak, for I desire to justify you.
33 If not, listen to me;
be silent, and I will teach you wisdom."

¹ Then Elihu answered and said:

2 "Hear my words, you wise men,
and give ear to me, you who know;
3 for the ear tests words
as the palate tastes food.

4 Let us choose what is right;
let us know among ourselves what is good.
5 For Job has said, 'I am in the right,
and God has taken away my right;
6 in spite of my right I am counted a liar;
my wound is incurable,
though I am without transgression.'
7 What man is like Job,
who drinks up scoffing like water,
8 who travels in company with evildoers
and walks with wicked men?
9 For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing
that he should take delight in God.'
10 Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding:
far be it from God that He should do wickedness,
and from the Almighty that He should do wrong.
35 'Job speaks without knowledge;
his words are without insight.'"

¹ And Elihu answered and said:

2 "Do you think this to be just?
Do you say, 'It is my right before God,'
3 that you ask, 'What advantage have I?
How am I better off than if I had sinned?'
4 I will answer you
and your friends with you.
5 Look at the heavens, and see;
and behold the clouds, which are higher than you.
13 Surely God does not hear an empty cry,
nor does the Almighty regard it.
14 How much less when you say that you do not see Him,
that the case is before Him, and you are waiting for Him!
15 And now, because His anger does not punish,
and He does not take much note of transgression,
16 Job opens his mouth in empty talk;
he multiplies words without knowledge."
5 Behold, God is mighty, and does not despise any;
He is mighty in strength of understanding.
6 He does not keep the wicked alive,
but gives the afflicted their right.
7 He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous,
but with kings on the throne
He sets them forever, and they are exalted.
8 And if they are bound in chains
and caught in the cords of affliction,
9 then He declares to them their work
and their transgressions,
that they are behaving arrogantly.
10 He opens their ears to instruction
and commands that they return from iniquity.

24 Remember to extol His work,
of which men have sung.
25 All mankind has looked on it;
man beholds it from afar.
26 Behold, God is great, and we know Him not;
the number of His years is unsearchable.

1 At this also my heart trembles
and leaps out of its place.
2 Keep listening to the thunder of His voice
and the rumbling that comes from His mouth.
3 Under the whole heaven He lets it go,
and His lightning to the corners of the earth.
4 After it His voice roars;
He thunders with His majestic voice,
and He does not restrain the lightnings
when His voice is heard.

23 The Almighty — we cannot find Him;
He is great in power;
justice and abundant righteousness He will not violate.
24 Therefore men fear Him;
He does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit."

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

"It's Not Fair!"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

from Nehemiah 10

We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree... We will not neglect the house of our God.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Beautiful, Scandalous Night

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy
to the crimson perpetual tide;
Kneel down on the shore,
be thirsty no more.
Go under and be purified.**

**Follow Christ to the holy mountain.
Sinner, sorry and wrecked by fall,
cleanse your heart and your soul
in the fountain that flowed
for you and for me and for all.**

***At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.***

**On the hillside you will be delivered,
at the foot of the cross justified.
And your spirit restored
by the river that poured
from our blessed Savior's side.**

***At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.***

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy
to the crimson perpetual tide;
Kneel down on the shore,
be thirsty no more.
Go under and be purified.**

***At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.***

***At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night ...
... Oh, on that beautiful, scandalous night ...
... Oh, on that beautiful, scandalous night.***

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

Belgic Confession, Article 20

P: We believe that God —

**who is perfectly merciful and also very just —
sent His Son to assume the nature
in which the disobedience had been committed,
in order to bear in it the punishment of sin
by His most bitter passion and death.**

**So God made known His justice toward His Son,
who was charged with our sin,
and He poured out His goodness and mercy on us,
who are guilty and worthy of damnation,
giving to us His Son to die,
by a most perfect love,
and raising Him to life for our justification,
in order that by Him we might have
immortality and eternal life.**

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

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need His power is displayed.**

*To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won,
and I shall overcome.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

*To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
until I stand with joy before the throne.**

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

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

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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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