



August 31, 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

Whate'er my God ordains is right: His holy will abideth;
I will be still whate'er He doth; and follow where He guideth;
He is my God; though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall:
wherefore to Him I leave it all.

Whate'er my God ordains is right: here shall my stand be taken;
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, yet I am not forsaken.
My Father's care is round me there;
He holds me that I shall not fall:
and so to Him I leave it all.

~ Samuel Rodigast

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 Galatians 1:3-5, 1 Kings 8:57, and Psalm 150:1-2

M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ,
Who gave Himself for our sins
to rescue us from the present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,
to Whom be glory for ever and ever.

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

Praise the LORD!

Praise God in His sanctuary;

praise Him in His mighty heavens!

Praise Him for His mighty deeds;

praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 98

**O sing a new song to the LORD
for wonders He has done,
His right hand and His holy arm
the victory have won.**

**With harp make music to the LORD;
with harp a psalm O sing!
With horn and trumpet raise a shout
before the LORD, the King.**

**Let seas in all their vastness roar,
the world its living horde.
Let rivers clap, let mountains sing
their joy before the LORD!**

**Because He comes, He surely comes,
the judge of earth to be!
With justice He will judge the world,
all men with equity.**

Words based on *Scottish Psalter* (1650).

Music (*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*) by Carl G. Gläser (1828);

arr. by Lowell Mason (1839)

Words: © 2012 Crown and Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

**Out of the depths I cry to You,
in darkest places I will call,
incline Your ear to me anew,
and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,
how could I come before Your throne?
yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word I will rely.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You
till my soul is satisfied.*

**So put Your hope in God alone,
take courage in His power to save,
completely and forever won
by Christ emerging from the grave.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word I will rely.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You
till my soul is satisfied.*

**Now He has come to make a way,
and God Himself has paid the price,
that all who trust in Him today
find healing in His sacrifice.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.*

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.***

Words and music by

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend

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Townend Songs

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 4:13-18

Elder Chris Sledge

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from John Knox's Liturgy of 1560

P: Almighty God,

**We are unworthy to come into Your presence,
because of our many sins.**

We do not deserve any grace or mercy from You.

**We have sinned against you, O Lord,
and we have offended You.**

**And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses,
so also do we acknowledge You to be a merciful God,
a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to You.**

**And so we humbly ask You,
for the sake of Christ Your Son,
to show mercy to us,
and forgive us all our offenses.**

**Forgive the sins of our youth,
and the sins of our old age.**

**By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts,
so that, not only the actions of our life,
but also the words of our mouths,
and the smallest thoughts of our minds,
may be guided and governed by You.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. 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.*

THE GOOD NEWS

John 14:1-4

*"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also
in Me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so,
would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again
and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.
And you know the way to where I am going."*

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

Come, Ye Sinners

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
is to feel your need of Him.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); alt. Music by Jonathan Eck (2023).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2023 Jonathan Eck

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
and hung Him on that judgment tree.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the Holy Judge:
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer.
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness, my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (2001).
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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

Ecclesiastes 3:1–15

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- ³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- ⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- ⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil — this is God's gift to man.

¹⁴ I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before Him. ¹⁵ That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

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 Hands of Time"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will give you many opportunities to do good, and He will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!

**Jesus, what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus, lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus, I do now receive Him,
more than all in Him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

Words by J. Wilbur Chapman (1910).
Music by Rowland H. Pritchard (1855).
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 & Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 56–58

**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.**

M: What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins?”

**P: I believe that God, because of Christ’s atonement,
will never hold against me any of my sins nor
my sinful nature which I need to struggle against
all my life. Rather, in His grace God grants me
the righteousness of Christ to free me forever
from judgment.**

M: How does “the resurrection of the body” comfort you?

**P: Not only my soul will be taken immediately after
this life to Christ its head, but even my very flesh,
raised by the power of Christ, will be reunited with
my soul and made like Christ’s glorious body.**

M: How does the article concerning “life everlasting”
comfort you?

**P: Even as I already now experience in my heart
the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life
I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye
has seen, no ear has heard, no man has ever imagined:
a blessedness in which to praise God eternally.**

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

Psalms 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.**

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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