



Ascension PCA

September 14, 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

Then the church shall be brought to the full enjoyment
of her bridegroom,
having all tears wiped away from her eyes,
and there shall be no more distance or absence.

She shall then be brought to the entertainments
of an eternal wedding feast,
and to dwell forever with her bridegroom,
yea, to dwell eternally in His embraces.

Then Christ will give her His loves, and she shall drink her fill,
yea, she shall swim in the ocean of His love.

~ Jonathan Edwards

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

Exodus 15:1-2,11

M: Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD,
saying,

**P: I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father's God, and I will exalt Him.
Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)

**Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
nor for help on man depend;
he shall die, to dust returning,
and his purposes shall end.**

**Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
he is blessed whose hope of blessing
on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created,
seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
righteousness He will maintain.**

**Food He daily gives the hungry,
sets the mourning prisoner free,
raises those bowed down with anguish,
makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
and the stranger He befriends,
helps the fatherless and widow,
judgment on the wicked sends.**

**Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
through all ages He is King;
unto Him, your God, O Zion,
joyful hallelujahs sing.**

Words from Psalm 146, *The Trinity Psalter* (1912); alt.
Music: Gregorian chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

This Is Our God

**God our Father, full of power,
Maker of the heavens, Maker of the world;
forming all things, seen and unseen,
truly the Almighty, beyond all measure worth;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,
born unto a virgin, lived a perfect life;
greatly suffered, dying for us.
From the grave He's risen, seated now on high;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,
speaking through the prophets,
empowering the Church; . . .**

**life is given by and through Him,
with the Son and Father, worshipped and adored;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

*Words and music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce,
Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones (2015).*

© 2015 Sovereign Grace Praise

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

Lamentations 2:1-13

Elder C.J. DeGroot

- ¹ How the LORD in His anger
has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud!
He has cast down from heaven to earth
the splendor of Israel;
He has not remembered His footstool
in the day of His anger.
- ² The LORD has swallowed up without mercy
all the habitations of Jacob;
in His wrath He has broken down
the strongholds of the daughter of Judah;
He has brought down to the ground in dishonor
the kingdom and its rulers.
- ³ He has cut down in fierce anger
all the might of Israel;
He has withdrawn from them His right hand
in the face of the enemy;
He has burned like a flaming fire in Jacob,
consuming all around.
- ⁴ He has bent His bow like an enemy,
with His right hand set like a foe;
and He has killed all who were delightful in our eyes;
in the tent of the daughter of Zion,
He has poured out His fury like fire.

- 5 The LORD has become like an enemy;
He has swallowed up Israel;
He has swallowed up all its palaces;
He has laid in ruins its strongholds,
and He has multiplied in the daughter of Judah
mourning and lamentation.
- 6 He has laid waste His booth like a garden,
laid in ruins His meeting place;
the LORD has made Zion forget
festival and Sabbath,
and in His fierce indignation has spurned king and priest.
- 7 The LORD has scorned His altar,
disowned His sanctuary;
He has delivered into the hand of the enemy
the walls of her palaces;
they raised a clamor in the house of the LORD
as on the day of festival.
- 8 The LORD determined to lay in ruins
the wall of the daughter of Zion;
He stretched out the measuring line;
He did not restrain His hand from destroying;
He caused rampart and wall to lament;
they languished together.
- 9 Her gates have sunk into the ground;
He has ruined and broken Her bars;
her king and princes are among the nations;
the law is no more,
and her prophets find
no vision from the LORD.
- 10 The elders of the daughter of Zion
sit on the ground in silence;
they have thrown dust on their heads
and put on sackcloth;
the young women of Jerusalem
have bowed their heads to the ground.
- 11 My eyes are spent with weeping;
my stomach churns;
my bile is poured out to the ground
because of the destruction of the daughter of my people,
because infants and babies faint
in the streets of the city.
- 12 They cry to their mothers,
"Where is bread and wine?"
as they faint like a wounded man
in the streets of the city,
as their life is poured out
on their mothers' bosom.
- 13 What can I say for you, to what compare you,
O daughter of Jerusalem?
What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you,
O virgin daughter of Zion?
For your ruin is vast as the sea;
who can heal you?

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

based on Psalm 130:1-6

P: Out of the depths we cry to You, O LORD!

O LORD, hear our voice!

**Let Your ears be attentive
to the voice of our pleas for mercy!**

**If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O LORD, who could stand?**

**But with You there is forgiveness,
that You may be feared.**

**We wait for the LORD, our souls wait,
and in His word we hope;
our souls wait for the LORD
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

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

Hebrews 10:11-14

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

All My Boast is in Jesus

**What wonder of wonders, what love is this
that Christ would die for me?**

**His goodness, His merit, His righteousness,
this sinner's only plea.**

**O foolish pride, be crucified,
the work is finished.**

All my boast is in Jesus.

All my hope is His love.

*And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

Now fully forgiven, my life is filled
with graces undeserved.
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill,
let praises now return.
Rise up my soul and bless the Lord.
Who else is worthy?

*All my boast is in Jesus.
All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

*O praise the One, forever blessed.
Him alone my heart adores.
And I will boast in nothing less
than the love of Christ, my Lord.*

*O praise the One, forever blessed.
Him alone my heart adores.
And I will boast in nothing less
than the love of Christ, my Lord.*

I boast not in riches, in strength or might,
but in the grace of God.
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ
in plenty or in want.
That I may know, that all may see
His pow'r within me.

*All my boast is in Jesus.
All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

*Now I stand in His freedom,
ransomed clean in His sight.
And I cannot be ashamed for
my boast is Jesus Christ.
My boast is Jesus Christ forever,
my boast is Jesus Christ.*

Words and music by Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.
© 2023 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies
Publishing; Messenger Hymns; Be Essential Songs; bryanfowersongs

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

Acts 16:8–10, Acts 17:1–10a, 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." ⁸ And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹ And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved

to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

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

"A Reputation that Reflects"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you*".

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

**May the mind of Christ, my Savior
live in me from day to day,
by His love and pow'r controlling
all I do and say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through His pow'r.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing:
this is victory.**

**May His beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only Him.**

Words by Kate B. Wilkinson (1925).

Music by A. Cyril Barham-Gould (1925; alt. 1990)

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

from Acts 13

**P: From David's descendants God brought to Israel
the Savior, Jesus, just as He promised.
The people of Jerusalem and their rulers
did not recognize Jesus,
yet in condemning Him they fulfilled the words
of the prophets.
Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence,
they asked Pilate to have Him executed.
When they had carried out all that was written about Him,
they took Him down from the tree
and laid Him in a tomb.
But God raised Him from the dead
and for many days He was seen by those
who had traveled with Him.
What God promised our fathers
He has fulfilled for us their children,
by raising up Jesus.
Therefore, through Jesus the forgiveness of sins
is proclaimed to you!
Through Him everyone who believes is justified
from everything you could not be justified from
by the law of Moses.**

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

Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed

**Alas, and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
for such a worm as I?**

**Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
and love beyond degree!**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
so pure and undefiled,
to make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

**Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut His glories in,
when Christ, the mighty Maker, died,
for man, the creature's, sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face
while His dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt my eyes to tears.**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
so pure and undefiled,
to make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

Words by Isaac Watts (1707);
additional words and music by Bob Kauflin (1997).
© 1997 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)

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



Song lyrics reproduced by permission: **CCL#11181050**

Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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.

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock

nate@ascension-pca.org

PASTOR EMERITUS:

Rev. Ed Volz

volz.edw@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rina Kroes

office@ascension-pca.org

ELDERS:

Brett Chase

brett@ascension-pca.org

C.J. DeGroot

cjdegroot@ascension-pca.org

Chris Sledge

chris@ascension-pca.org

Philip Suh

philipsuh@ascension-pca.org

Theo Vander Wel

theo@ascension-pca.org

Brian Walsh

brian@ascension-pca.org

DEACONS:

Kyle Bartlett

kyle@ascension-pca.org

Bob Briest

bob_briest@ascension-pca.org

Mike Wheeler

mike@ascension-pca.org

Garret Holt

garret@ascension-pca.org

MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):

Dave Ball

dave@daveball.net

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Anna Hitchcock [temp]

hitchcrew@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge

cmkesledge@gmail.com

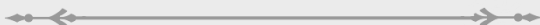
MEAL COORDINATORS:

Sheila Bloedow

s.bloedow@comcast.net

Colette Hudson

colette.hudson@gmail.com



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

Meeting Address: 8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

APC Office: Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)
(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*