



Ascension PCA

September 21, 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

*The world is very evil, the times are waxing late;
Be sober and keep vigil, the Judge is at the gate.*

*The Judge that comes in mercy, the Judge that comes with might,
To terminate the evil, to diadem the right.*

*When the just and gentle Monarch shall summon from the tomb,
Let man, the guilty tremble, for Man the God shall doom!*

*Arise, arise, good Christian, let right to wrong succeed;
Let penitential sorrow to heavenly gladness lead.*

*To the light that hath no evening, that knows nor moon nor sun,
The light so new and golden, the light that is but one.*

~ Bernard of Cluny

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

Psalms 33:18-22

M: Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
on those who hope in His steadfast love,
that He may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

P: **Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in Him,
because we trust in His holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in You.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

There is a Higher Throne

**There is a higher throne
than all this world has known;
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.**

**Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace.
Salvation comes.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'erald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

**And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honor Him in perfect song
where we belong.**

**He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.**

Hear heaven's voices sing.

*Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever ...*

... Hear heaven's voices sing.

*Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.

© 2002 Thankyou Music

Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;
behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.**

**No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.**

**His reign shall know no end;
and round His piercéd feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851) Music by George Job Elvey (1868).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, Holy One

**Hasten now, O loving Lord, to us ...
we're thirsty.
Fill these souls, Spirit, every hour ...
we need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on the perfect path, O Lord,
and may we ...
... sin no more — this spotless bride, the Church,
is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.
© 2016 Scot Family Reunion Songs (BMI)

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 2:14-22

Elder Philip Suh

- 14 Your prophets have seen for you
false and deceptive visions;
they have not exposed your iniquity
to restore your fortunes,
but have seen for you oracles
that are false and misleading.
- 15 All who pass along the way
clap their hands at you;
they hiss and wag their heads
at the daughter of Jerusalem:
"Is this the city that was called
the perfection of beauty,
the joy of all the earth?"
- 16 All your enemies
rail against you;
they hiss, they gnash their teeth,
they cry: "We have swallowed her!
Ah, this is the day we longed for;
now we have it; we see it!"
- 17 The LORD has done what He purposed;
He has carried out His word,
which He commanded long ago;
He has thrown down without pity;
He has made the enemy rejoice over you
and exalted the might of your foes.
- 18 Their heart cried to the LORD.
O wall of the daughter of Zion,
let tears stream down like a torrent
day and night!
Give yourself no rest,
your eyes no respite!
- 19 "Arise, cry out in the night,
at the beginning of the night watches!
Pour out your heart like water
before the presence of the LORD!
Lift your hands to Him
for the lives of your children,
who faint for hunger
at the head of every street."
- 20 Look, O LORD, and see!
With whom have You dealt thus?
Should women eat the fruit of their womb,
the children of their tender care?
Should priest and prophet be killed
in the sanctuary of the LORD?

- 21 In the dust of the streets
lie the young and the old;
my young women and my young men
have fallen by the sword;
You have killed them in the day of Your anger,
slaughtering without pity.
- 22 You summoned as if to a festival day
my terrors on every side,
and on the day of the anger of the LORD
no one escaped or survived;
those whom I held and raised
my enemy destroyed.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Lord God Almighty,
as we gaze upon Your holiness,
we are devastated by our sinfulness.**

**The prophet cried, "Woe is me!"
as his unclean lips were exposed
in the light of Your holiness.**

**Help us to see our sin.
Help us to hate our sin.
Help us to turn from our sin.
In Your mercy, forgive our sin.**

**We come boldly to You
because the wrath that we deserve
has been entirely poured out
on Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you, Father, that the cross stands empty now.
Jesus is risen, and You have made us alive in Him.**

**Grant us the grace to live lives
set apart by Your grace,
reflecting Your glory,
that the world might see and bring glory to You.
In Jesus' 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.*

THE GOOD NEWS

John 6:35,37

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst." All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out."

Look to Jesus that your sins might be forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

He Will Hold Me Fast

**When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
through life's fearful path;
for my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.**

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

**Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.**

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

**For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life;
He will hold me fast;
'till our faith is turned to sight,
when He comes at last!**

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1–2 by Ada Habershon (1861–1918).

Alt words vv.1–2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker (2013).

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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

1 Thessalonians 2:1–16

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³ For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷ But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹ For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

¹³ And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. ¹⁴ For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and the

prophecy, and drive us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind¹⁶ by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved — so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

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

"Gospel Ministry Reminders"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Proverbs 11:24–25

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.
Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

How Firm a Foundation

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed,
for I am your God, and will still give you aid.
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”**

**“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.”**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”**

Words from *Rippon’s Selection of Hymns* (1787; alt.; mod.)

Traditional American melody;

J. Funk’s *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music* (1832)

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

from the Belgic Confession, Art. 35

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted
this Holy Supper

to nourish and sustain those

who are born again and grafted into His family:

His church.

Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread

as the sacrament of his body

and wine as the sacrament of His blood.

**P: Just as truly as we take and hold the sacraments
in our hands**

and eat and drink them in our mouths,

by which our life is then sustained,

so truly we receive into our souls,

for our spiritual life,

the true body and true blood of Christ,

our only Savior.

We receive these by faith,

which is the hand and mouth of our souls.

M: This banquet is a spiritual table at which Christ
communicates Himself to us with all His benefits.

**P: By the use of this holy sacrament
we are moved to a fervent love of God
and our neighbors.**

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

All Is Well

**The sun beams on behind the clouds,
and in the dark still grace abounds.**

All is well because of God's great love.

**The road of disappointment runs
where unseen mercies wait for us,
and all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.***

**He feels our weakness, knows our need,
and for our good He intercedes.
All is well because of God's great love.
Through ev'ry failure, ev'ry fear,
the Lord of comfort draws us near,
and all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.***

**His coming soon will fill the sky,
and all that's wrong will be made right.
With newborn eyes we will behold
the glory of the risen Lord.
All will be well because of God's great love.
Yes, all is well because of God's great love.**

Words and music by Steve Cook, Vikki Cook (2012).
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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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Scripture text from

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

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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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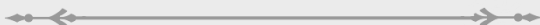
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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