



Ascension PCA

January 11, 2026



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!

Feel free to sit up front where your child can more easily see and hear what is happening.

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.

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

*In Thee, O LORD, I put my trust,
I call upon Thy Name;
O save me in Thy righteousness,
nor let me suffer shame.*

*Bow down Thine ear to my request,
and swift deliverance send;
be Thou to me a rock of strength,
a fortress to defend.*

*Since Thou my rock and fortress art,
my leader be and guide;
from all temptation rescue me,
Thou dost my strength abide.*

*Oh, LORD, in Thee is all my trust;
"Thou art my God," I cried.
"My life, my times are in Thy hand,
I in Thy strength confide."*

~ J.C. Lowry

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Chronicles 16:23-27

M: Sing to the LORD, all the earth;
proclaim His salvation day after day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
He is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before Him;
strength and joy are in His dwelling place.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Behold Our God

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore ...

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

Words and music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird,
Stephen Altrogge (2011)
© 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee

**Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee
for the bliss Thy love bestows;**

**for the pard'ning grace that saves me,
and the peace that from it flows.**

**Help, O God, my weak endeavor;
this dull soul to rapture raise:**

**Thou must light the flame, or never
can my love be warmed to praise.**

**Praise, my soul, the God that sought me,
wretched wand'rer far astray;**

**found me lost, and kindly brought me
from the paths of death away.**

**Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,
Him who saw my guilt-born fear;**

**and, the light of hope revealing,
bade the blood-stained cross appear.**

**Praise my Savior God that drew me
to that cross, new life to give;**

**held a blood-sealed pardon to me,
bade me look to Him and live.**

**Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,
roused me from my fatal ease;**

**praise the grace whose promise warmed me,
praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817).
Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).
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

Hebrews 11:8–16

Elder Theo Vander Wel

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Almighty God,

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

**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.**

**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.**

**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

Hear the gracious words of our Lord Jesus Christ
to all who truly repent and turn to Him:

*"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest...*

Whoever comes to Me I will never cast out!"

Now, may that grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

SONG 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

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

Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
He utters His voice, the earth melts.
7 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*
8 Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how He has brought desolations on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
He burns the chariots with fire.
10 "Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"
11 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

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 King and His City"

Reverend Mark George

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

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
'till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till Thy inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.
More and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Luke Morton (2012).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

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

Isaiah 25:1,6-9

P: O LORD, you are our God;

**We will exalt You; we will praise Your name,
for You have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

**On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for
all peoples**

**a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.**

**And He will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.**

He will swallow up death forever;

**and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people He will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.**

It will be said on that day,

**"Behold, this is our God;
we have waited for Him, that He might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."**

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707, 1709).
Gregorian Chant; arranged by Lowell Mason (1824).
PUBLICDOMAIN

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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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

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