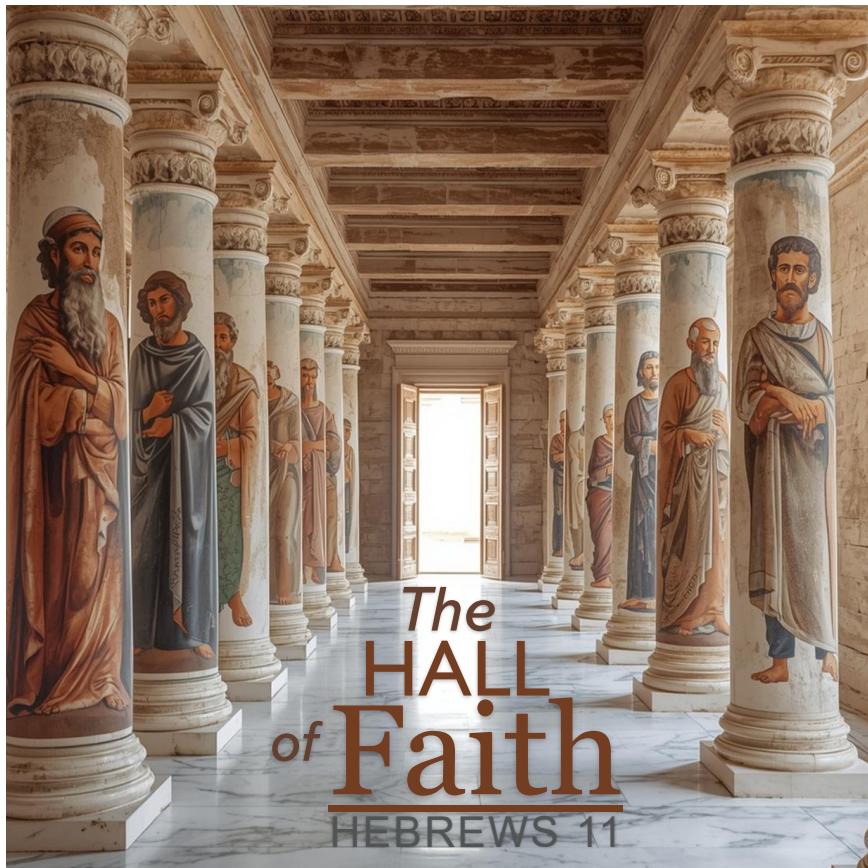




February 8, 2026



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

*Dear Lord Jesus, we want what David had —
an intense yearning and craving for You.*

*Make us so thirsty that we'll remain insatiable
until You hydrate our hearts with the gospel;
satisfy us with Your steadfast love;
quench us with fresh grace.*

Only Your steadfast love is better than life, Lord Jesus —
only Your mercy drenched, grace propelled,
God-favor-filled affection for us.

Nothing else will do.

*You've created a gospel-shaped vacuum in our hearts —
a screaming empty place that fits only You.*

*Forgive us when we try to cram human love, creature comforts,
or **anything else** into that place.*

*Keep us redemptively discontent
until our hearts rest again in You.*

~ Scotty Smith

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

Daniel 2:20-22

**P: Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to Whom belong wisdom and might.
He changes times and seasons;
He removes kings and sets up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;
He reveals deep and hidden things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with Him.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Glorious and Mighty

**Majesty, Your glory is shining
brighter than the moon and the stars.
Marveling, we honor and fear You
above all gods.**

*Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens,
Your decrees can never be changed.
Over all the plans of the nations,
Your judgments reign.**

*Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation
when You come again in the clouds.
Every knee will bow down and worship
the one true God.**

*Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!*

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczabel, Todd Twining.
Music by Joel Sczabel, Todd Twining.
© 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise

Psalm 31:1-8

**In You, O LORD, I take refuge;
ashamed let me not be.
Your righteousness eternal
express by saving me.
Incline Your ear to hear me;
with speed deliver me.
To me O be a strong rock,
A fort to rescue me.**

**You are my rock and fortress;
for Your sake lead and guide.
Free me from nets they've hidden;
my stronghold You abide.
I now commit my spirit
into Your outstretched hand.
I know You have redeemed me,
LORD God of truths that stand.**

**I hate those serving idols;
My trust is in the LORD.
I'll triumph in Your mercy;
for anguish You regard.
You've known my soul's afflictions,
kept me from hostile hand.
My feet You have established
where they have room to stand.**

Words from Psalm 31:1-8 as found in *Trinity Psalter*.
Music by Ernest W. Shurtliff (1887).
Text ©1994 Crown & Covenant Publications
Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

GOD CLEANSES 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

Psalm 105:1-25

Elder Brian Walsh

- 1 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;
make known His deeds among the peoples!
- 2 Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wondrous works!
- 3 Glory in His holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- 4 Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His presence continually!
- 5 Remember the wondrous works that He has done,
His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham, His servant,
children of Jacob, His chosen ones!
- 7 He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
- 8 He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded,
for a thousand generations,
- 9 the covenant that He made with Abraham,
His sworn promise to Isaac,
- 10 which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
- 11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."
- 12 When they were few in number,
of little account, and sojourners in it,
- 13 wandering from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another people,
- 14 He allowed no one to oppress them;
He rebuked kings on their account,
- 15 saying, "Touch not My anointed ones,
do My prophets no harm!"

16 When He summoned a famine on the land
and broke all supply of bread,
17 He had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
18 His feet were hurt with fetters;
his neck was put in a collar of iron;
19 until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the LORD tested him.
20 The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free;
21 he made him lord of his house
and ruler of all his possessions,
22 to bind his princes at his pleasure
and to teach his elders wisdom.
23 Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.
24 And the LORD made His people very fruitful
and made them stronger than their foes.
25 He turned their hearts to hate His people,
to deal craftily with his servants.

CORPORATE CONFESSON OF SIN

P: O great and merciful God;
Your eyes are too pure to behold iniquity;
but You have promised mercy through Jesus Christ
to all who repent and believe in Him.

Therefore, we confess that we are sinful by nature
and that we have all sinned
and fall short of the glory of God.

We have neglected Your law.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not sought first Your kingdom
and righteousness.

We have not been content with our daily bread.

Instead, we have run into temptation;
and the sin that we should have hated,
we have committed.

Have mercy upon us.

We confess that You alone are our hope.
In Jesus' Name we pray.

SILENT CONFESSON 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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Based on Romans 8:34 & 2 Corinthians 5:17

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

If a man is in Christ, he becomes a new person – the past is finished and gone, everything has become new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

**Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with Him.

**There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.
O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker

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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

Genesis 4:1-12 & Hebrews 11:1-4

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it."

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

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 Posture of Faith”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES:

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must give as he has made up in his mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this my plea:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Words and music by Robert Lowry (1876).

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.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

adapted from The Valley of Vision, "Bounty"

**P: God rules all things in
wisdom, love and power.
He has made summer and winter,
day and night,
so that each of these revolutions serves our welfare
and is full of His care and kindness.**

**But as the stars fade before the rising sun,
He has eclipsed all benefits
with the wisdom and grace
that purposed our eternal redemption.**

**By His great mercy, God laid our salvation
on His mighty and willing Son, our Savior;
One that is able to save to the uttermost.
His name is Jesus.**

**By His grace, His blood cleanses us from our sin.
God imputes to us His righteousness,
which justifies the guilty,
and gives us title to eternal life
and possession of the Holy Spirit.**

**By this Spirit of life-giving wisdom and power
we have faith to grasp God's promises,
rejoice in our hope,
turn from evil,
and live for the glory of our Savior.**

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

There Is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer:

Jesus, God's own Son,

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,

Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus, my Redeemer,
name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
hope for sinners slain.**

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.*

**When I stand in glory,
I will see His face.**

**There I'll serve my King forever,
in that holy place.**

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.*

Words and music by Melody Green (1982).

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Ears To Hear (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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.

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

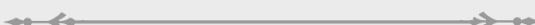
MEAL COORDINATORS:

Sheila Bloedow

s.bloedow@comcast.net

Colette Hudson

colette.hudson@gmail.com



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: **Discipleship Hour**

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*