



Ascension PCA

March 1, 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

*Almighty God, heavenly Father,
I praise and thank You for being so gracious to me,
a poor sinner.*

*You have drawn me to Your Son, my Lord Jesus,
Whom You delivered to death for me,
and Who has become both my food
and my home for eternal life.*

*Grant that my heart may never lose hold of these things,
but always grow and increase in such faith,
that, through love, it will show forth in good works.*

*May my whole life be devoted to Your praise
and to the good of my neighbor;
through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.*

~ Martin Bucer

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

M: The earth is the LORD's, for He made it:

P: Come, let us adore Him.

M: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness:

P: Come, let us adore Him.

M: The mercy of the LORD is everlasting:

P: Come, let us adore Him.

M: LORD God, open our lips.

P: And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Only a Holy God

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
*Only a Holy God.***

**What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
*Only a Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
*Only a Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?**

***Only a Holy God,
Only my Holy God!***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,
Rich Thompson.

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Integrity's Praise! Music, and CityAight Music

Our Great God

**Eternal God, unchanging,
mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight
around Your glorious throne;
they raise their voices day and night
in praise to You alone.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Lord, we are weak and frail,
helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
before our Sovereign God.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Let every creature in the sea
and every flying bird,
let every mountain, every field,
and valley of the earth;**

...

**Let all the moons and all the stars
in all the universe
sing praises to the living God
who rules them by His Word.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

Words and music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell.
© 2002 New Spring, DeJamesolo Music, Curb Word Music.

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

Ephesians 4:1-16

Elder CJ DeGroot

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

⁸ Therefore it says,

“When He ascended on high He led a host of captives,
and He gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried

about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, You are holy and perfect
in all Your ways,
yet You stoop to love us,
fallen and sinful rebels that we are.**

**You have set Your love on upon us
and pursue us with Your everlasting promise
to work all things for our good and Your own glory.
Thank You Father.**

Melt our hearts with wonder, love, and praise to You.

Forgive us for the many sins that we daily commit.

**We cast ourselves on Your mercy
and thank You for the blood of Christ,
which cleanses us from all sin,
and for the obedience of Christ,
which replaces our record of rebellion
with the glory of His perfect holiness.**

**May Your great and mighty power,
which raised Christ from the dead,
be at work in us, making us holy.**

In the excellent name of Jesus Christ 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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

from Revelation 1:5-6

Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and He has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father.

Brothers and sisters, in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven

SONG OF ASSURANCE

His Mercy is More

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore...
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor...
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford...
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa
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Publishing, Messenger Hymns

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

Nehemiah 3:1-14

¹ Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. ² And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

³ The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ⁴ And next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired. And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired. ⁵ And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their LORD.

⁶ Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ⁷ And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, the seat of the governor of the province Beyond the River. ⁸ Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹ Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired. ¹⁰ Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired. ¹¹ Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.

¹³ Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate.

¹⁴ Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

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.**

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Today is the monthly offering for our DEACON FUND and MERCY MINISTRIES.

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

SONG OF RESPONSE AND THANKSGIVING

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;

He is the Lord, our God.

We are not consumed by the flood;

upheld, protected, gathered up.

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

**In the dark of night, before the dawn,
my soul, be not afraid.**

For the promised morning, oh how long?

Oh God of Jacob be my strength.

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

**Every vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one.**

And from the garden to the grave,

bind us together, bring shalom.

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

Words and music by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore.
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SERVICE OF ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

Rich Rios and Bill Park

To the Candidates:

- Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
- Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
- Do you accept the office of deacon and the office of elder in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
- Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
- Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity, and edification of the Church?

To the Congregation:

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive these brothers as elder and deacon, and do you promise to yield to them all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which their offices, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles them?

If you do, please raise your right hand.

Laying on of Hands and Prayer

Right Hand of Fellowship and Pronouncement

Exhortation

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

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 75

M: How does the Lord's Supper remind you and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all His gifts?

P: **In this way:**

**Christ has commanded me and all believers
to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup.**

With this command He gave these promises:

**First, as surely as I see with my eyes
the bread of the Lord broken for me
and the cup given to me,
so surely His body was offered and broken for me
and His blood poured out for me on the cross.**

**Second, as surely as I receive from the hand
of the one who serves,
and taste with my mouth
the bread and cup of the Lord,
given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood,
so surely He nourishes and refreshes my soul
for eternal life
with His crucified body and poured-out blood.**

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

Here Is Love

**Here is love, vast as the ocean,
lovingkindness as the flood,
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
throughout Heav'n's eternal days.**

**On the mount of crucifixion,
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.**

**Let me, all Thy love accepting,
love Thee, ever all my days;
let me seek Thy kingdom only
and my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.**

**In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
by Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
and Thy grace my need is meeting,
as I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
without measure, full and boundless,
drawing out my heart to Thee.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
without measure, full and boundless,
drawing out my heart to Thee.**

Words by William Rees (1802–1883); vv. 3–4 attr. to William Williams.
Music by Robert Lowry (1876).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

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

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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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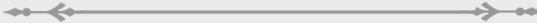
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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

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