



Ascension PCA

March 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

Lo, God is here! Him day and night
united choirs of angels sing.
To Him, enthroned above all height,
heaven's host their noblest praises bring.
Disdain not, Lord, our meaner song,
Who praise Thee with a stammering tongue.

Being of beings, may our praise
Thy courts with grateful fragrance fill.
Still may we stand before Thy face,
still hear and do Thy sovereign will.
To Thee may all our thoughts arise,
Ceaseless, accepted sacrifice.

~ Gerhard Tersteegen (1789–1897)

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

Nehemiah 9:5b,6

M: Stand up and bless the LORD your God
from everlasting to everlasting.
Blessed be Your glorious name,
which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

P: **You are the LORD, You alone.
You have made the heaven,
the heaven of heavens,
with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them;
and You preserve all of them;
and the host of heaven worships You.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Oh What High and Holy Privilege

**Oh what high and holy priv'lege,
once again to gather here
in the name of our Lord Jesus
as we see His Day draw near.
May we join in joyful rev'rence
with thanksgiving, faith, and love
as He welcomes in His people
to the throne of grace above.**

**Oh what high and holy priv'lege
voices raised in prayer and praise,
boldly bringing great petitions,
gladly singing hymns of faith.
May His grace at work among us
cleanse and heal us from our sin
that our prayers may not be hindered
and our praises honor Him.**

**Oh what high and holy priv'lege
hearing from the Word of God,
heaven speaks in perfect wisdom,
earth responds and stands in awe.**

**Do our hearts not burn within us
as we see God's promises
find their final yes in Jesus,
leading us to righteousness!**

**Oh what high and holy priv'lege
this communion that we share
with the Father, Son, and Spirit
and His people everywhere.**

**As we go with God's great blessing
in the keeping of His grace,
go in peace to love and service
till we join again in praise.**

**As we go with God's great blessing
in the keeping of His grace,
go in peace to love and service
till we join again in praise,
till we join again in praise.**

Words and music by Bryan Christopher Fowler, Keith Getty,
Kristyn Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.

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Publishing; Messenger Hymns.

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

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

Psalm 106:24-48

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 24 Then they despised the pleasant land,
having no faith in His promise.
- 25 They murmured in their tents,
and did not obey the voice of the LORD.
- 26 Therefore He raised His hand and swore to them
that He would make them fall in the wilderness,
27 and would make their offspring fall among the nations,
scattering them among the lands.
- 28 Then they yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor,
and ate sacrifices offered to the dead;
- 29 they provoked the LORD to anger with their deeds,
and a plague broke out among them.

30 Then Phinehas stood up and intervened,
and the plague was stayed.
31 And that was counted to him as righteousness
from generation to generation forever.

32 They angered Him at the waters of Meribah,
and it went ill with Moses on their account,
33 for they made his spirit bitter,
and he spoke rashly with his lips.

34 They did not destroy the peoples,
as the LORD commanded them,
35 but they mixed with the nations
and learned to do as they did.

36 They served their idols,
which became a snare to them.
37 They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to the demons;
38 they poured out innocent blood,
the blood of their sons and daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was polluted with blood.

39 Thus they became unclean by their acts,
and played the whore in their deeds.

40 Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against His people,
and He abhorred His heritage;
41 He gave them into the hand of the nations,
so that those who hated them ruled over them.

42 Their enemies oppressed them,
and they were brought into subjection under their power.

43 Many times He delivered them,
but they were rebellious in their purposes
and were brought low through their iniquity.

44 Nevertheless, He looked upon their distress,
when He heard their cry.

45 For their sake He remembered His covenant,
and relented according to the abundance of
His steadfast love.

46 He caused them to be pitied
by all those who held them captive.

47 Save us, O LORD our God,
and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to Your holy name
and glory in Your praise.

48 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!
And let all the people say, "Amen!"
Praise the LORD!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Holy God, we acknowledge our sin
and ask for Your forgiveness.
We offer to You our contrite and humbled hearts.
We offer to You our groans,
messengers of true and real sorrow.
We are weary and heavy laden.**

**Left to ourselves, we fail.
But in You, we have hope.
In You, we find joy once again.
Restore our souls and give us rest, we ask.**

**O most righteous God, yet most kind Father,
behold how unjustly Your Son suffered for us.
Forget how we, Your servants, have acted.
Look to Christ's deep wounds
and plunge our sins into the deepest depths
of the sea of Your mercy.**

This we plead, in the name of our Savior, 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

Matthew 11:28-29 & John 4:14a

[Jesus says,] "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls... Whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never be thirsty again."

Believe this good news and live in peace. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Living Waters

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
rest beside these living waters.**

**Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.**

***There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure,
do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.***

**Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters.
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.**

***There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure,
do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.***

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless.
Christ, He is our living waters.**

***There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure,
do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.
There our hope is secure,
do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.***

Words and music by Ed Cash and Kristyn Getty.
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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 22:1-19 & Hebrews 11:17-19

¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Chronicles 29:14b

All things come from You, and of Your own have we given You.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Through the Precious Blood

**You have ordained every breath we take,
in pleasure or pain there is no mistake.
Gladness and grief, both are in Your hands,
and sufferings brief carry out Your plan.**

**And our fleeting sorrows
will yield an endless prize,
when some bright tomorrow
we'll see You with our eyes.**

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down
through the precious blood of Christ.*

**Father of lights, Giver of all grace,
Your mercies crown our lives all our days;
River of life quench our thirsty souls,
for no true delight does Your love withhold.**

**And in every season
we are satisfied,
for just one reason:
Christ was crucified.**

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down ...*

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down
through the precious blood of Christ.*

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

The Apostles' Creed

**P: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits on the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

**To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need His power is displayed.**

**To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won,
and I shall overcome.
*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

**To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
until I stand with joy before the throne.**

**To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

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

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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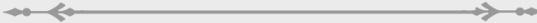
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour
10:00AM: Worship Service (in-person & livestream)

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