



Ascension PCA

March 15, 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.

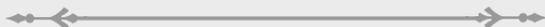
Clipboards for kids are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

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

The time is short. The fashion of this world is passing away. A few more sicknesses, and all will be over. A few more funerals, and our own funeral will take place. A few more storms and tossings, and we shall be safe in harbor. We travel towards a world where there is no more sickness, where parting, and pain, and crying, and mourning, are done with for evermore.

Heaven is becoming every year more full, and earth more empty... Yet a little time and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.¹ (Heb. 10:37) In His presence shall be fullness of joy. Christ shall wipe away all tears from His people's eyes. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is Death. But he shall be destroyed. Death himself shall one day die. (Rev. 20:14)

In the meantime let us live the life of faith in the Son of God. Let us lean all our weight on Christ, and rejoice in the thought that He lives for evermore. Yes: blessed be God! Christ lives, though we may die. Christ lives, though friends and families are carried to the grave. He lives who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel.

~ J.C. Ryle

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 Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

M: It is truly right for us to offer our praise to You,
Lord God Almighty.

We praise You and join the heavenly hosts
in singing to the glory of Your name:

**P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 84

**O Lord of hosts, how lovely
the place where Thou dost dwell!**

**Thy tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.**

**My soul is longing, fainting,
Jehovah's courts to see;**

**My heart and flesh are crying
O living God, for Thee.**

**So they from strength unwearied
go forward unto strength,
till they appear in Zion
before the Lord at length. . . .**

**O hear, Lord God of Jacob,
to me an answer yield;
The face of Thine Anointed,
behold, O God, our Shield.**

**O God of hosts, Jehovah,
how blest is everyone
who confidence reposes
on Thee, O Lord, alone.**

**O Lord of Hosts, how lovely
the place where Thou dost dwell!
Thy tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.**

Words from Psalm 84; *Book of Psalms* (1871); alt.
Music by Henry T. Smart (1836).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

**Let us love and sing and wonder,
let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God.**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us,
pitied us when enemies,
called us by His grace and taught us,
gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood,
He presents our souls to God.**

**Let us wonder; grace and justice
join and point to mercy's store;
when thro' grace in Christ our trust is,
justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with His blood
has secured our way to God.**

**Let us praise, and join the chorus
of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted Him before us,
now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with Your blood;
You are worthy, Lamb of God!"**

Words by John Newton (1774, mod.).
Music from *Darmstadt Gesangbuch* (1698)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Lord, for Your Glory

**Lord, for Your glory we sing Your praises.
We magnify Your holy name.
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing.
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

*We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,
We offer all we are for the glory of You.*

**Almighty Father, we are Your children.
You have been faithful to Your own.
Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen.
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

*We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.*

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann,
Grant Cunningham (1998)
© 1998 New Spring, Matt Huesmann Music, Imagine This Music, River Oaks Music Company

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

Psalms 107:1-20

Elder Philip Suh

- 1 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever!
- 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom He has redeemed from trouble
- 3 and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

4 Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;
5 hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
6 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.
7 He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.
8 Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love,
for His wondrous works to the children of man!
9 For He satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul He fills with good things.
10 Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,
prisoners in affliction and in irons,
11 for they had rebelled against the words of God,
and spurned the counsel of the Most High.
12 So He bowed their hearts down with hard labor;
they fell down, with none to help.
13 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.
14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
and burst their bonds apart.
15 Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,
for His wondrous works to the children of man!
16 For He shatters the doors of bronze
and cuts in two the bars of iron.
17 Some were fools through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;
18 they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.
20 He sent out His word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
who of Your great mercy has promised
forgiveness of sins to those who with
repentance and true faith turn to You:
have mercy on us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Colossians 1:11-14

May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

**O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
that in Thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

**O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.**

Words by George Matheson (1882). Music by Christopher Miner (1997)
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN; music: ©1997 Miner, Christopher

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 27:1-2, 28-30, 38-40, Genesis 48:8-16, 21-22, Genesis 50:24-26 & Hebrews 11:20-22

¹ When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." ² He said, "Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.

²⁸ "May God give you of the dew of heaven
and of the fatness of the earth
and plenty of grain and wine.

²⁹ Let peoples serve you,
and nations bow down to you.
Be lord over your brothers,
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be everyone who curses you,
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

³⁰ As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

³⁸ Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

³⁹ Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

"Behold, away from the fatness of the earth
shall your dwelling be,
and away from the dew of heaven on high.

⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live,
and you shall serve your brother;
but when you grow restless
you shall break his yoke from your neck."

⁸ When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?"

⁹ Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them." ¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. ¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph,

"I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also."¹² Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn).¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph and said,

"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd
all my life long to this day,
¹⁶ the angel who has redeemed me from all evil,
bless the boys;
and in them let my name be carried on,
and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;
and let them grow into a multitude
in the midst of the earth."

²¹ Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers.²² Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow."

²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."²⁶ So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.

²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

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.**

GIVING TO THE LORD

Matthew 10:8

Freely you have received, freely give.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

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 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 Acts 13

**P: From David's descendants God brought to Israel
the Savior, Jesus, just as He promised.
The people of Jerusalem and their rulers
did not recognize Jesus,
yet in condemning Him
they fulfilled the words of the prophets.
Though they found no proper ground
for a death sentence,
they asked Pilate to have Him executed.
When they had carried out
all that was written about Him,
they took Him down from the tree
and laid Him in a tomb.
But God raised Him from the dead
and for many days He was seen
by those who had traveled with Him.
What God promised our fathers
He has fulfilled for us their children,
by raising up Jesus.
Therefore, through Jesus,
the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you!**

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

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

**On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land
my possessions lie.**

**O'er all those wide extended plains
one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns,
scatters night away.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
reach that healthful shore;
sickness, sorrow, pain, and death
felt and feared no more.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**When I shall reach that happy place
'll be forever blest
for I shall see my Father's face
in His bosom rest.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

Words by Samuel Stennet (1787). Music by Miner (1997).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1997 Getty Music Hymns and Songs

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
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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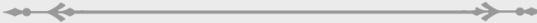
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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