



Ascension PCA

April 5, 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.

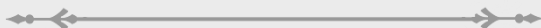
Clipboards for kids are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

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

Western society in many ways doesn't like Jesus...

It's fine to believe in Him, but you're asking for trouble

if you start displaying Him where everyone can see Him.

Keep Him to yourself.

Stick Him in your pocket, and don't take Him out till you get home.

The resurrection does not give us that option.

He left the grave, not to stand in some discreet corner,

but to take His throne in heaven —

a throne that is universal and everlasting.

He owns and rules the public square.

We mustn't keep Him indoors,

no matter what the neighbors think.

He is God's King.

~ Sam Allberry

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: He is the Alpha and Omega. The Almighty.
The Angel of the LORD. The Captain of the LORD's host.
The Good Shepherd. The Branch. The Last Adam.
The Vine. The Chief Cornerstone.
The Way. The Truth. The Resurrection. The Life.

P: **God exalted Him to the highest place
and gave Him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

M: Christ is risen!

P: **He is risen indeed!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today,"	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Sons of men and angels say;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Raise your joys and triumphs high;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Lives again our glorious King;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Where, O death, is now thy sting?	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Once He died, our souls to save;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Where thy victory, O grave?	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Love's redeeming work is done;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Fought the fight, the battle won.	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Death in vain forbids His rise;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Christ has opened paradise.	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Soar we now where Christ has led,	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Foll'wing our exalted Head;	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Made like Him, like Him we rise:	<i>Alleluia!</i>
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.	<i>Alleluia!</i>

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 life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those He came to save.**

**His glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.**

**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 and Godfrey Thring (1851).

Music by George Job Elvey (1868).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

RESPONSIVE READING

from 1 Corinthians 15

- M: If Christ has not been raised,
 your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.
- P: If only for this life we have hope in Christ,
we are to be pitied more than all men.**
- M: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
 the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 For since death came through a man,
 the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.
- P: For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be made alive.
But each in his own turn:
Christ, the firstfruits;
then, when He comes,
those who belong to Him.**
- M: When the perishable
 has been clothed with the imperishable,
 and the mortal with immortality,
 then the saying that is written will come true:
 “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”
- P: “Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”
The sting of death is sin,
 and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory
 through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

- P: Heavenly Father,
Your Son died and was raised up in power.
Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance
so we may rise to new life in Him.**

We confess to You:

**Lord, though You should guide us,
we seek to find our own way;
though You should rule us,
we live according to ourselves;
though You should fulfill us,
we seek what can't satisfy.**

Merciful God, forgive us.

**Holy Spirit, heal our confused minds with Your word,
heal our troubled consciences with Your love,
heal our anxious hearts with Your presence,
all for the sake of the Son,
who loved us and gave Himself for us. 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 Romans 4:24-25

M: God accounts all sinners who confess the Name of Christ and believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead as sinless. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

In Him your sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!**

**And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
©2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing).

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

Mark 16:1-8

¹ When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Beautiful, Scandalous Night

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy
to the crimson perpetual tide;
Kneel down on the shore,
be thirsty no more.
Go under and be purified.**

**Follow Christ to the holy mountain.
Sinner, sorry and wrecked by fall,
cleanse your heart and your soul
in the fountain that flowed
for you and for me and for all.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

**On the hillside you will be delivered,
at the foot of the cross justified.
And your spirit restored
by the river that poured
from our blessed Savior's side.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy
to the crimson perpetual tide;
Kneel down on the shore,
be thirsty no more.
Go under and be purified.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

***At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night ...
... Oh, on that beautiful, scandalous night ...
... Oh, on that beautiful, scandalous night.***

Words and music by Derald Daugherty and Steve Hindalong
© 1995 Never Say Never Songs

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?

Do you acknowledge your need for the grace of God, humbling yourself, offering no morality or righteousness of your own, but asking only for the mercy of God in Christ?

Do you accept Christ as the sacrifice for your sin, as the Prophet for all your truth, and as the King of all your life, resting on Him and His righteousness alone for your salvation?

Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling by reliance on the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God?

Do you promise to support this communion with your prayers and offerings, to strive for its purity and peace, and to submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

To the Body of Christ: (please stand)

M: Do you as a congregation, now welcome this brother and sister as members of this body?

P: We do.

M: Do you promise to take seriously your responsibilities to build up them up and to seek to practice with them true Christian community and true Biblical church life?

P: We do.

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

Romans 8:11, 16-17, 31-32, 35a, 37-39

M: If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life
to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**P: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs —
heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,
provided we suffer with Him in order that
we may also be glorified with Him.**

M: What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all,
how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

**P: For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus.**

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

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.**

**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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Love Your Enemies Publishing, Messenger Hymns

SONG OF RESPONSE

Rise My Soul, The Lord Is Risen

**Rise, my soul the Lord is risen!
Come, behold the empty grave.
See the place where darkness laid Him.
Sing, for only hope remains.
Hallelujah, praise forever!
Death defeated and life restored
by that great immortal power.
Christ is risen, arise my soul!**

**Rest my soul, the Lord is risen.
Love's redeeming work is done.
Now the Father sees His children
as He sees His sinless Son.
Oh the wonder, oh the glory,
that same favor is now my own.
Shame behind, me grace before me.
Christ is risen, arise my soul.**

**Peace, my soul the Lord is risen,
Come and have your hope renewed
for this trial is brief and fleeting,
tears will turn to glory soon.**

**Shout with joy and sound the triumph,
let the music of heaven roar!
Let the boast of death be silent.
Christ is risen, arise my soul.**

**Arise my soul for I am risen,
seated now with Christ, my Lord.
As my life belongs to heaven,
fear shall hold its sway no more.**

**Onward, upward, t'ward the treasure,
filled with courage and endless hope.
For this truth is mine forever:
Christ is risen, arise my soul!**

**Onward, upward, t'ward the treasure,
filled with courage and endless hope.
For this truth is mine forever:
Christ is risen, arise my soul!
Christ is risen, arise my soul!
Christ is risen, arise my soul!**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa,
Rich Thompson.

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Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns

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

Now may the God of peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.



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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
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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