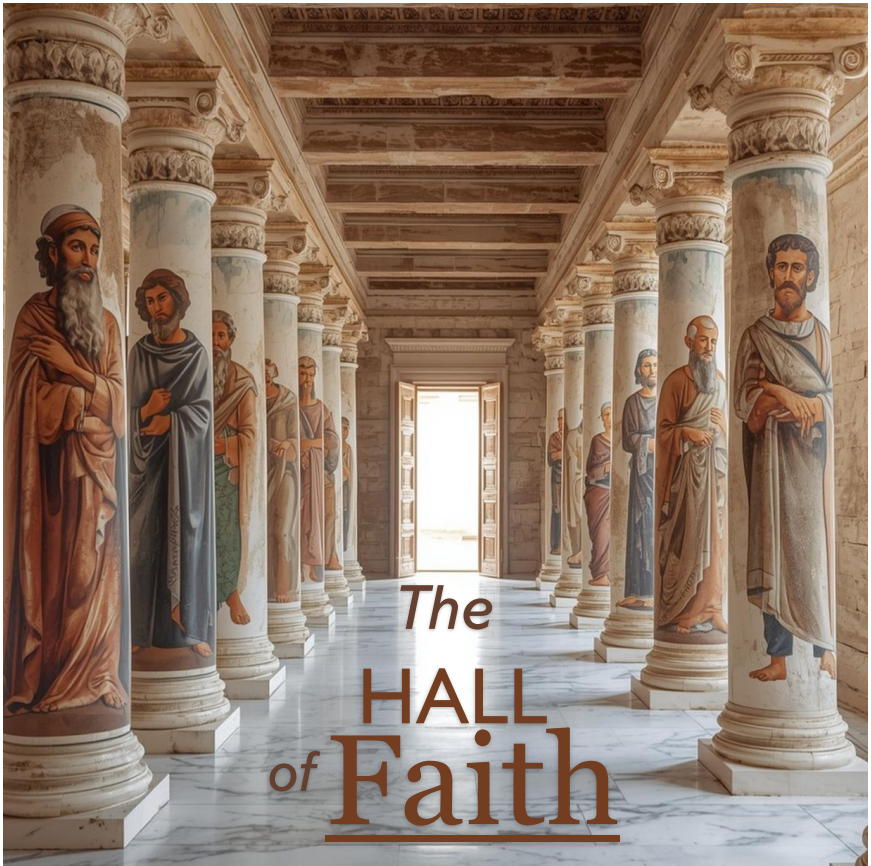




# Ascension PCA

April 12, 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 gospel is more than handy tips  
for improving our lives this week.*

*It is a comprehensive new outlook on everything,  
illuminated by God's promise of a glorious future  
renewing the entire creation through the death  
and resurrection of Jesus.*

*But God is not the only one making us promises.*

*The world has its own version of events,  
its own eschatology, its own promises of reward.  
We must choose.*

*And either way, we will be living by faith.*

*~ Ray Ortlund*

# 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 & Psalm 95:6–7*

M: Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are His.  
He changes times and seasons;  
He sets up kings and deposes them.  
He gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to the discerning.

**P: He reveals deep and hidden things;  
He knows what lies in darkness,  
and light dwells with Him.**

M: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker.

**P: For He is our God,  
and we are the people of His pasture,  
and the sheep of His hand.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*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

### *Come, Thou Almighty King*

**Come, thou Almighty King,  
help us Thy name to sing,  
help us to praise.  
Father, all glorious,  
o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.**

**Come, Thou Incarnate Word,  
gird on Thy mighty sword,  
our prayer attend.  
Come, and Thy people bless,  
and give Thy Word success;  
Spirit of holiness,  
on us descend.**

**Come, Holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour.  
Thou who almighty art,  
now rule in every heart,  
and ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.**

**To the great One in Three  
eternal praises be,  
hence evermore.  
Thy sovereign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
love and adore.**

Words Anonymous (ca. 1757).  
Music by Felice de Giardini (1769).  
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 109:1-31*

*Elder Philip Suh*

- 1 Be not silent, O God of my praise!
- 2 For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me,  
speaking against me with lying tongues.
- 3 They encircle me with words of hate,  
and attack me without cause.
- 4 In return for my love they accuse me,  
but I give myself to prayer.
- 5 So they reward me evil for good,  
and hatred for my love.
- 6 Appoint a wicked man against him;  
let an accuser stand at his right hand.
- 7 When he is tried, let him come forth guilty;  
let his prayer be counted as sin!
- 8 May his days be few;  
may another take his office!

9 May his children be fatherless  
and his wife a widow!  
10 May his children wander about and beg,  
seeking food far from the ruins they inhabit!  
11 May the creditor seize all that he has;  
may strangers plunder the fruits of his toil!  
12 Let there be none to extend kindness to him,  
nor any to pity his fatherless children!  
13 May his posterity be cut off;  
may his name be blotted out in the second generation!  
14 May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before  
the LORD,  
and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out!  
15 Let them be before the LORD continually,  
that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth!  
16 For he did not remember to show kindness,  
but pursued the poor and needy  
and the brokenhearted, to put them to death.  
17 He loved to curse; let curses come upon him!  
He did not delight in blessing; may it be far from him!  
18 He clothed himself with cursing as his coat;  
may it soak into his body like water,  
like oil into his bones!  
19 May it be like a garment that he wraps around him,  
like a belt that he puts on every day!  
20 May this be the reward of my accusers from the LORD,  
of those who speak evil against my life!  
21 But you, O God my LORD,  
deal on my behalf for Your name's sake;  
because Your steadfast love is good, deliver me!  
22 For I am poor and needy,  
and my heart is stricken within me.  
23 I am gone like a shadow at evening;  
I am shaken off like a locust.  
24 My knees are weak through fasting;  
my body has become gaunt, with no fat.  
25 I am an object of scorn to my accusers;  
when they see me, they wag their heads.  
26 Help me, O LORD my God!  
Save me according to Your steadfast love!  
27 Let them know that this is your hand;  
You, O LORD, have done it!  
28 Let them curse, but You will bless!  
They arise and are put to shame,  
but Your servant will be glad!  
29 May my accusers be clothed with dishonor;  
may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a cloak!  
30 With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD;  
I will praise Him in the midst of the throng.  
31 For He stands at the right hand of the needy one,  
to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*from "The Broken Heart" in "The Valley of Vision"*

**P: Blessed Jesus, though my sins rise to heaven,  
Your merits soar above them.**

**I appeal from the throne of perfect justice  
to Your throne of boundless grace.**

**I am guilty, but pardoned,  
lost, but saved,  
wandering, but found,  
sinning, but cleansed.**

**Give me perpetual broken-heartedness,  
keep me always clinging to the cross,  
flood me every moment with descending grace.  
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

*Isaiah 61:10*

**M: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest  
with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

*Look to Christ Jesus... in Him your sins are forgiven!*

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*My Redeemer*

**I will sing of my Redeemer,  
and His wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross He suffered,  
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,  
how my lost estate to save;  
In His boundless love and mercy,  
He the ransom freely gave.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.***

**I will sing of my Redeemer,  
and His heav'nly love to me;  
He from death to life hath brought me,  
Son of God with Him to be.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.***

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)

## **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**

*Hebrews 11:29–31*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.





## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

**I love Thy kingdom, Lord,  
the house of Thine abode,  
the church our blest Redeemer saved  
with His own precious blood.**

**I love Thy church, O God:  
her walls before Thee stand.  
dear as the apple of Thine eye  
and graven on Thy hand.**

**For her my tears shall fall,  
for her my prayers ascend;  
to her my cares and toils be giv'n,  
till toils and cares shall end.**

**Beyond my highest joy  
I prize her heavenly ways,  
her sweet communion, solemn vows,  
her hymns of love and praise.**

**Jesus, Thou Friend divine,  
our Savior and our King,  
Thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe  
shall great deliv'rance bring.**

**Sure as Thy truth shall last,  
to Zion shall be giv'n  
the brightest glories earth can yield,  
and brighter bliss of heaven.**

Words by Timothy Dwight (1800).

Music by Aaron Williams (1763).

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.

## EUCCHARISTIC 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

*Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery*

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,  
in the dawning of the King.  
He the theme of heaven's praises,  
robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness,  
now the light of life has come.  
Look to Christ, who condescended,  
took on flesh to ransom us.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,  
He the perfect Son of Man.  
In His living, in His suff'ring,  
never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam,  
come to save the hell-bound man.  
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment  
of the law; in Him we stand.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,  
Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners  
hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption,  
see the Father's plan unfold.  
Bringing many sons to glory;  
grace unmeasured, love untold.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,  
slain by death, the God of life.  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him.  
Praise the Lord; He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,  
how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected,  
as we will be when He comes.**

**What a foretaste of deliv'rance,  
how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected,  
as we will be when He comes.  
Christ in power resurrected,  
as we will be when He comes.**

Words and music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker  
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Publishing; Bleecker Publishing; McKinney Music, Inc.

## **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.

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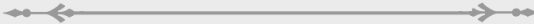
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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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**APC Office:** Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)  
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