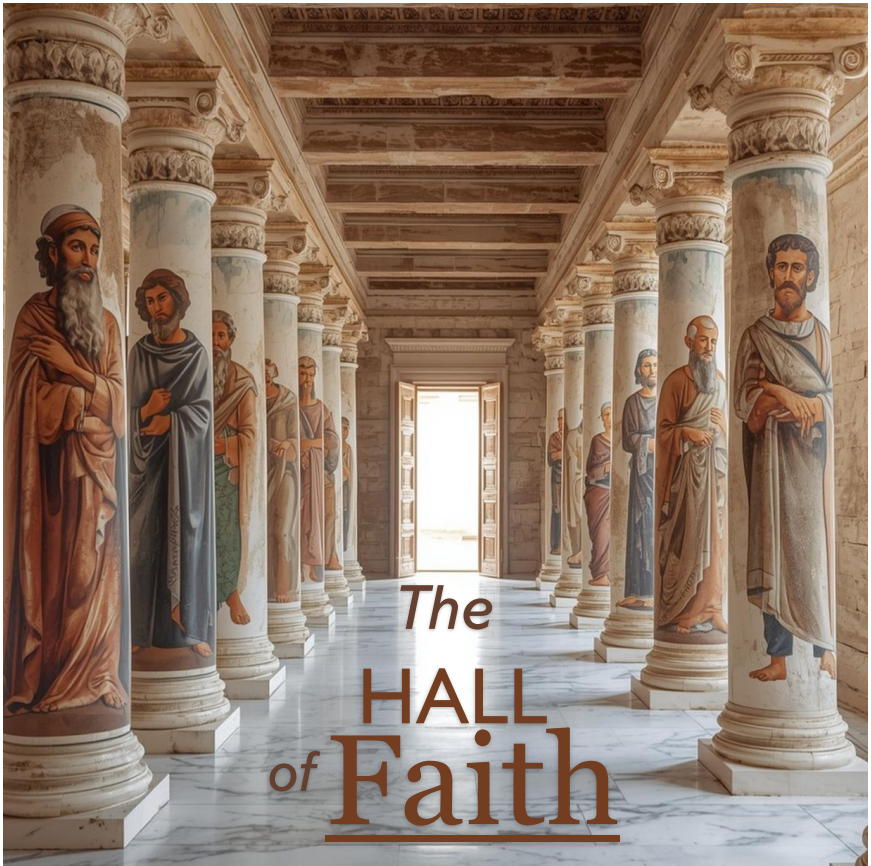




Ascension PCA

April 19, 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.

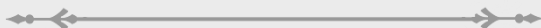
Clipboards for kids are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

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

*Faith endures as seeing Him who is invisible;
endures the disappointments, the hardships,
and the heart-aches of life,
by recognizing that all comes from the hand
of Him who is too wise to err and too loving to be unkind.
But so long as we are occupied with any other object
than God Himself,
there will be neither rest for the heart nor peace for the mind.
But when we receive all that enters our lives as from His hand,
then, no matter what may be our circumstances or surroundings —
whether in a hovel or prison dungeon, or at a martyr's stake —
we shall be enabled to say,
"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places" (Psalm 16:6).
But that is the language of faith, not of sight nor of sense.*

~ Arthur W. Pink

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

Deuteronomy 7:9 & 32:4

M: The LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God,
keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations
of those who love Him and keep His commands.

P: **He is the Rock, His works are perfect,
and all His ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong,
upright and just is He.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**The Lord ye know is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Words by William Kethe (1561). Music by Louis Bourgeois (1551).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Behold Our God

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore ...

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

Words and music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird,
Stephen Altrogge (2011)
© 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

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 110

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 1 The LORD says to my Lord:
"Sit at My right hand,
until I make Your enemies Your footstool."
- 2 The LORD sends forth from Zion
Your mighty scepter.
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!
- 3 Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of Your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of Your youth will be Yours.
- 4 The LORD has sworn
and will not change His mind,
"You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek."
- 5 The LORD is at Your right hand;
He will shatter kings on the day of His wrath.
- 6 He will execute judgment among the nations,
filling them with corpses;
He will shatter chiefs
over the wide earth.
- 7 He will drink from the brook by the way;
therefore He will lift up His head.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful Lord, we confess that with us
there is an abundance of sin,
but in You there is the fullness of righteousness
and abundance of mercy.
We are spiritually poor,
but You are rich
and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor.**

**Strengthen our faith and trust in You.
We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us.
We are weak in faith; strengthen us.
We are cold in love; warm us.**

**Make our hearts fervent for You
that our love may go out to one another
and to our neighbors.**

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

M: *Who is in a position to condemn?*

Only Christ, and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

If a man is in Christ, he becomes a new person —
the past is finished and gone, everything has become new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

P: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

All My Boast is in Jesus

**What wonder of wonders, what love is this
that Christ would die for me?**

**His goodness, His merit, His righteousness,
this sinner's only plea.**

**O foolish pride, be crucified,
the work is finished.**

All my boast is in Jesus.

All my hope is His love.

*And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

**Now fully forgiven, my life is filled
with graces undeserved.**

**For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill,
let praises now return.**

**Rise up my soul and bless the Lord.
Who else is worthy?**

All my boast is in Jesus.

All my hope is His love.

*And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

O praise the One, forever blessed.

Him alone my heart adores.

*And I will boast in nothing less
than the love of Christ, my Lord.*

***O praise the One, forever blessed.
Him alone my heart adores.
And I will boast in nothing less
than the love of Christ, my Lord.***

**I boast not in riches, in strength or might,
but in the grace of God.
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ
in plenty or in want.
That I may know, that all may see
His pow'r within me.**

***All my boast is in Jesus.
All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.***

***Now I stand in His freedom,
ransomed clean in His sight.
And I cannot be ashamed for
my boast is Jesus Christ.
My boast is Jesus Christ forever,
my boast is Jesus Christ.***

Words and music by Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.
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Publishing; Messenger Hymns; Be Essential Songs; bryanfowersongs

My Jesus, I Love Thee

**My Jesus, I love Thee; I know Thou art mine.
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I'll love Thee in life; I will love Thee in death,
and praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath.
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown upon my brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

Words by William Ralph Featherstone (1864).
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon (1876).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 11:32-38

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated — ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy — wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

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.**

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"The Joy of Faith"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name
in the land that is plentiful,
where Your streams of abundance flow,
blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name
when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness,
blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say:

*"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name."*

Blessed be Your name
when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's "all as it should be,"
blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name
on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering,
blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say:

*"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name."*

You give and take away.
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say:
"Lord, blessed be Your name."

***“Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name.”***

Words and music by Beth Redman and Matt Redman.
© 2002 Thankyou Music Ltd

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

taken from “The Lord's Supper”, The Valley of Vision

**P: God of all good, You have prepared for us a feast;
and though we are unworthy to sit down as guests,
we wholly rest on the merits of Jesus,
and hide beneath His righteousness.**

**While we gaze upon the emblems of our Savior's death,
may we ponder why He died, and hear Him say,**

***“I gave My life to purchase yours,
presented Myself an offering to atone for your sin,
shed My blood to blot out your guilt,
opened My side to make you clean,
endured your curses to set you free,
bore your condemnation to satisfy divine justice.”***

**In the supper we remember His eternal love, boundless
grace, infinite compassion, agony, cross, redemption.
We receive assurance of pardon, adoption, life, glory.**

**As the outward elements nourish our bodies,
may Your indwelling Spirit invigorate our souls,
until that day when we hunger and thirst no more,
and sit with Jesus at His heavenly feast. 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

As A Beggar I Come To Thee

**As a beggar, I come to Thee.
As a beggar, I come to Thee.
With empty hands, without one plea.
As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**At Thy table I find a feast.
At Thy table I find a feast.
Here come the poor, the lame, the least.
At Thy table I find a feast.**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?
Precious Savior, how can it be?
Thine own dear blood was shed for me!
Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.
Long I to see Thy kingdom come.
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!
With lifted hearts our prayer is sung:
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

**With lifted hearts our prayer is sung:
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

Music and words by Luke Morton (2012).
© 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

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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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
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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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