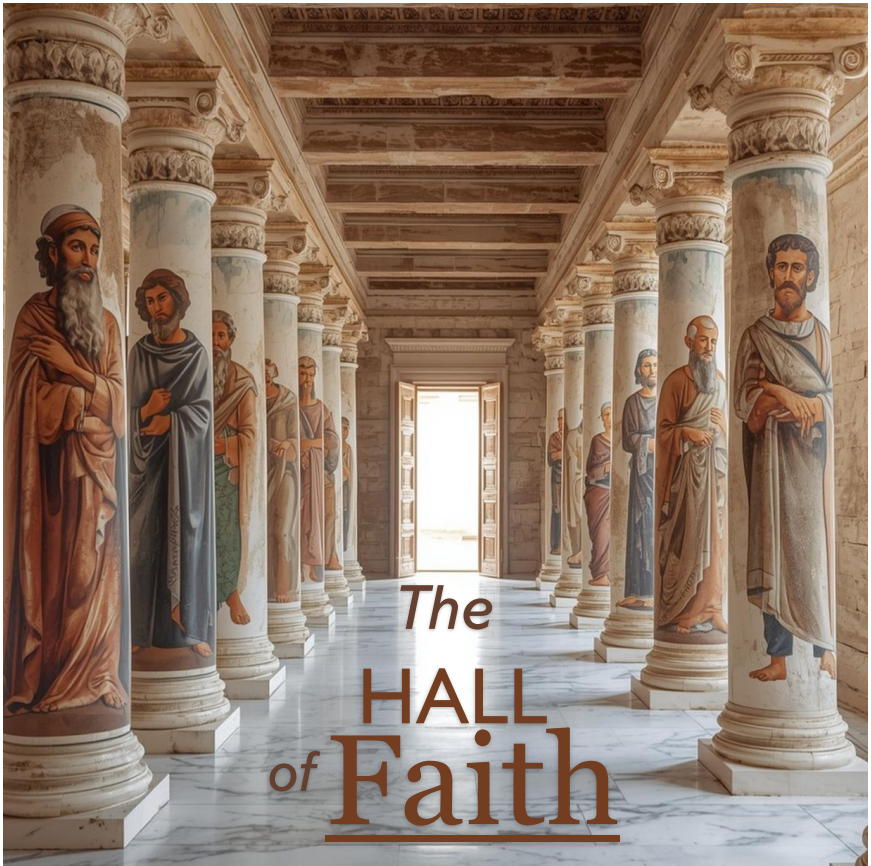




# Ascension PCA

April 26, 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

When Jesus suffered on the cross,  
He connected the worst *humans* do with the best *God* does.  
For the cross on which Christ died  
is also the place of resurrection.  
*"Keep your eyes on Jesus" (Heb 12:2),*  
and you'll find that the place you thought was death  
is the very place where the resurrection power of God  
is at work to bring you life,  
whether it's your life on the cross or your livelihood,  
your relationship with a mate or your reputation with others.

~ Eugene Peterson

# 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

*Lamentations 3:22-26*

**P: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is Your faithfulness.  
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in Him.”  
The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,  
to the soul who seeks Him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

**Praise to the Lord,  
the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is  
thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear,  
now to His temple draw near;  
praise Him in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord,  
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under His wings,  
yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,  
who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!  
Surely His goodness and mercy here  
daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do  
if with His love He befriend thee!**

**Praise to the Lord!**

**O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him!  
Let the amen sound from His people again,  
gladly for aye we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863).  
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*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 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 111*

*Elder Brian Walsh*

- 1 Praise the LORD!  
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 Full of splendor and majesty is His work,  
and His righteousness endures forever.
- 4 He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
- 5 He provides food for those who fear Him;  
He remembers His covenant forever.
- 6 He has shown His people the power of His works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- 7 The works of His hands are faithful and just;  
all His precepts are trustworthy;
- 8 they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- 9 He sent redemption to His people;  
He has commanded His covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is His name!
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Come, blessed Spirit, show me my sin  
in all its worst colors,  
that I may feel an unwavering hatred of it.**

**Show me the majesty and mercy of God in such a way  
that my heart will be alarmed and melted.**

**Convince me, O blessed Spirit,  
of sin, righteousness, and repentance.**

**Show me the power of Christ to save!  
I teach my faith to see Him extended on the cross,  
arms open wide, with a pierced, bleeding side,  
telling me what room is in His heart for me.**

**May I confide in His power and love.  
May I commit my spirit to Him without reserve.  
May I bear His image, observe His laws,  
and pursue His service.**

**And through time and eternity may I remain  
a monument of the power of the gospel,  
and a trophy of His victorious grace.  
In Jesus' Name I pray, 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 1 Peter 3:18a*

Christ suffered once for sins, the Righteous for the unrighteous,  
that He might bring us to God.

*In Jesus you are forgiven.*

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of Thy redeeming love.**

**Hitherto Thy love has blessed me,  
Thou hast brought me to this place;  
and I know Thy hand will bring me  
safely home by Thy good grace.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face,  
full arrayed in blood-washed linen,  
how I'll sing Thy sovereign grace.**

**Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,  
bring Thy promises to pass,  
for I know Thy pow'r will keep me  
till I'm home with Thee at last.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758) and Bob Kauflin (2008).  
Music by John Wyeth (1813).  
Words: ©2008 Sovereign Grace Praise. Music: 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 11:39-40 & 12:1-3*

<sup>39</sup> And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings





Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Words by Fanny J. Crosby (1873). Music by Phoebe P. Knapp (1873).  
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.

### 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

*How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

**How deep the Father's love for us;  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that He would give His only Son  
to make a wretch His treasure.**

**How great the pain of searing loss;  
the Father turns His face away,  
as wounds which mar the Chosen One  
bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross;  
my guilt upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.**

**It was my sin that held Him there,  
until it was accomplished.  
His dying breath has brought me life,  
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.**

**But this I know with all my heart:  
His wounds have paid my ransom.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart:  
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Words & music by Stuart Townend (1995).  
© 1995 ThankYou 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.

*There is One Gospel*

**There is one Gospel on which I stand  
for all eternity.  
It is my story, my Father's plan.  
The Son has rescued me.  
Oh what a Gospel, oh what a peace.  
My highest joy and my deepest need.  
Now and forever, He is my light.  
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel to which I cling,  
all else I count as loss.  
For there, where justice and mercy meet,  
He saved me on the cross.  
No more I boast in what I can bring,  
no more I carry the weight of sin.  
For He has brought me from death to life.  
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel where hope is found,  
the empty tomb still speaks.  
For death could not keep my Saviour down,  
He lives and I am free.  
Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,  
my life is His and His hope is mine.  
For He has promised I too will rise.  
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And in this Gospel, the church is one,  
we do not walk alone.  
We have His Spirit as we press on  
to lead us safely home.**

**And when in glory still I will sing  
of this old story that rescued me.  
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.  
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And when in glory still I will sing  
of this old story that rescued me.  
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.  
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.  
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson (2022).  
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## 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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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

**Meeting Address:** 8224 220<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

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(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*