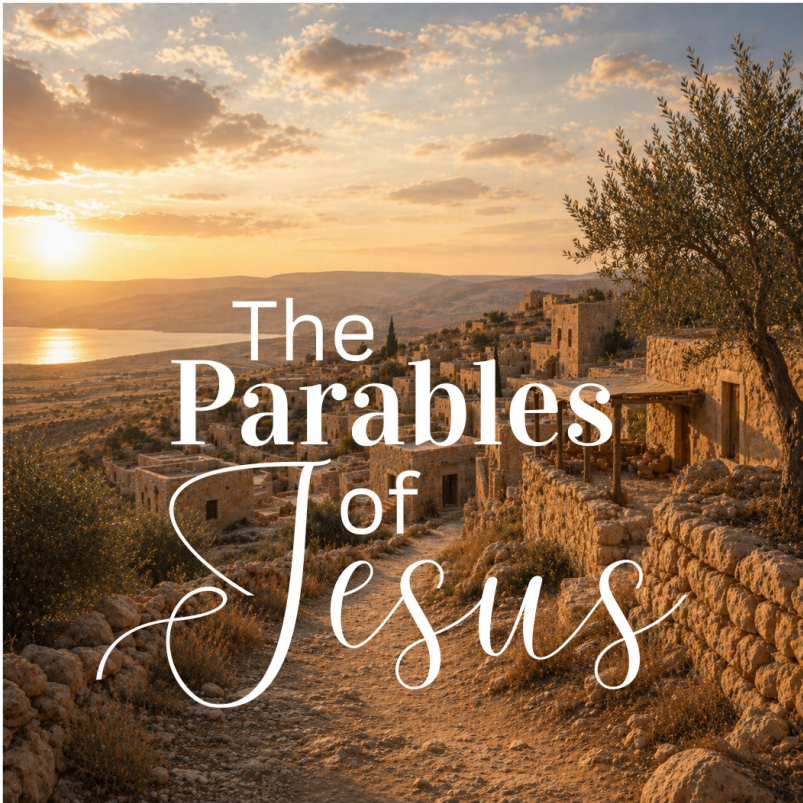




Ascension PCA

May 3, 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

Then the church shall be brought to the full enjoyment
of her bridegroom,

having all tears wiped away from her eyes,
and there shall be no more distance or absence.

She shall then be brought to the entertainments
of an eternal wedding feast,

and to dwell forever with her bridegroom,
yea, to dwell eternally in His embraces.

Then Christ will give her His loves,
and she shall drink her fill,

yea, she shall swim in the ocean of His love.

~ Jonathan Edwards

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

from Psalm 91:2 and Romans 10:9,13

M: Let us worship the LORD!

**P: He is our refuge and our fortress,
our God, in whom we trust!**

M: Let us confess with our mouths, "*Jesus is Lord,*"
and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead.

**P: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved!**

M: Let us call upon our true God,
believing Him in our hearts,
confessing Him with our mouths,
worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)

**Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
nor for help on man depend;
he shall die, to dust returning,
and his purposes shall end.**

**Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
he is blessed whose hope of blessing
on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created,
seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
righteousness He will maintain.**

**Food He daily gives the hungry,
sets the mourning prisoner free,
raises those bowed down with anguish,
makes the sightless eye to see.**

**Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
and the stranger He befriends,
helps the fatherless and widow,
judgment on the wicked sends.**

**Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
through all ages He is King;
unto Him, your God, O Zion,
joyful hallelujahs sing.**

Words from Psalm 146, *The Trinity Psalter* (1912); alt.
Music: Gregorian chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Oh, How Good It Is

**Oh, how good it is when the family of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruit of His presence here among us.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is on this journey we share,
to rejoice with the happy
and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
when we offer the blessing of belonging.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is to embrace His command
to prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one, we all share in the love
of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words and music by

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend

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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 112

Elder Rich Rios

- 1 Praise the LORD!
Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in His commandments!
- 2 His offspring will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.
- 4 Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- 5 It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.
- 6 For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered forever.
- 7 He is not afraid of bad news;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.
- 8 His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.
- 9 He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever;
his horn is exalted in honor.
- 10 The wicked man sees it and is angry;
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;
the desire of the wicked will perish!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

We confess that we are not ready for Your coming.

We live in sin,

as though there were no justice.

We live in distraction,

as though there were no end.

We live in fear,

as though there were no grace.

Forgive us Lord.

Show us Your mercy and steadfast love.

Lead us in Your truth and teach us Your paths,

for You are the God of our salvation.

In Jesus we 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

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ prays for us.

And now anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

O Great God

O great God of highest heav'n,

occupy my lowly heart.

Own it all and reign supreme,

conquer every rebel pow'r.

Let no vice or sin remain

that resists Your holy war.

You have loved and purchased me,

make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin,

had no ears to hear Your voice,

did not know Your love within,

had no taste for heaven's joys.

**Then your Spirit gave me life,
opened up Your Word to me
through the gospel of Your Son,
gave me endless hope and peace.**

**Help me now to live a life
that's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
from the evils that I face.**

**You are worthy to be praised
with my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n,
glorify Your name through me.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin.

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration".

© 2006 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'neath the healing cleansing flood.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy, and peace.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

**I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
will be with me to the end.**

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!
O for grace to trust Him more!***

Words by Louisa M.R. Stead (1882).
Music by William J. Kirkpatrick (1882).
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

Matthew 25:1-13

¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that Thou art —
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all ...
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905),
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)
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

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
to Thy glorious rest above.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore.**

How He watches o'er His loved ones,
died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to Thee.

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834-1925).
Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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
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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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