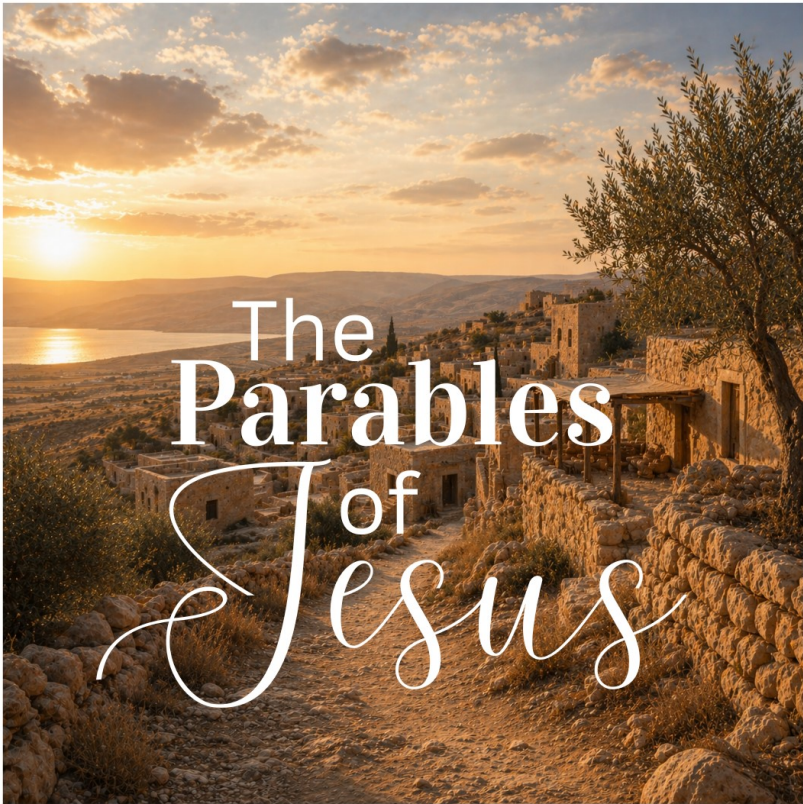




Ascension PCA

May 24, 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

O God, Who hast prepared for them that love Thee
such good things as pass man's understanding,
pour into our hearts such love toward Thee,
that we, loving Thee above all things,
may obtain Thy promises,
which exceed all that we can desire,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ The Book of Common Prayer

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 1 Kings 8:56-57

M: Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel
just as He promised.

Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave
through his servant Moses or any of His prophets.

P: **May the LORD our God be with us
as He was with our fathers;
may He never leave us nor forsake us.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Our Great God

**Eternal God, unchanging,
mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight
around Your glorious throne;
they raise their voices day and night
in praise to You alone.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Lord, we are weak and frail,
helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
before our Sovereign God.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

Let every creature in the sea
and every flying bird,
let every mountain, every field,
and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
in all the universe
sing praises to the living God
who rules them by His Word.

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Words and music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell.
© 2002 New Spring, Dejamesolo Music, Curb Word Music.

Christus Victor

**O Most High, King of the ages,
Great I AM, God of wonders,
by the blood, You have redeemed us,
led us through mighty waters,
our strength, our song, our sure salvation.**

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah! Amen.*

**O Most High, dwelling among us,
Son of man, sent for sinners,
by Your blood, You have redeemed us,
Spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
who lived, who died, who rose victorious.**

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!*

*With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah! Amen.*

**O Most High, King of the nations,
robed in praise, crowned with splendor,
on that day, who will not tremble
when You stand Christ the Victor
who was and is and is forever.**

***Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!***

***With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah! Amen.***

***Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.***

***Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!***

***With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah!
Sing the victory of the Lamb.
Hallelujah! Amen.
Amen.***

Words and music by Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty,
Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.
© 2024 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; LivingHymns;
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

Psalm 115

Elder Theo Vander Wel

¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory,
for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!

2 Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"
3 Our God is in the heavens;
He does all that He pleases.
4 Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
5 They have mouths, but do not speak;
eyes, but do not see.
6 They have ears, but do not hear;
noses, but do not smell.
7 They have hands, but do not feel;
feet, but do not walk;
and they do not make a sound in their throat.
8 Those who make them become like them;
so do all who trust in them.
9 O Israel, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
12 The LORD has remembered us; He will bless us;
He will bless the house of Israel;
He will bless the house of Aaron;
13 He will bless those who fear the LORD,
both the small and the great.
14 May the LORD give you increase,
you and your children!
15 May you be blessed by the LORD,
who made heaven and earth!
16 The heavens are the LORD's heavens,
but the earth He has given to the children of man.
17 The dead do not praise the LORD,
nor do any who go down into silence.
18 But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.
Praise the LORD!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
who of Your great mercy has promised
forgiveness of sins to those who with
repentance and true faith turn to You:
have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us
from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us
in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life,
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.

SONG OF CONFESSION

Psalm 51

**From my sins hide Thou Thy face;
my iniquities erase.**

**O my God, renew my heart,
and a spirit right impart.**

**Cast me not away from Thee,
nor Thy Spirit take from me.**

**Give salvation's joy again,
and a willing mind sustain.
Then Thy perfect ways I'll show,
that transgressors may them know;
They converted then shall be,
sinners shall be turned to Thee.**

**Free me from the guilt of blood,
God of my Salvation God;
Then with joy my tongue shall raise,
songs Thy righteousness to praise.
Open Thou my lips, O Lord;
then my mouth shall praise accord.**

*Words from Trinity Psalter. Music by James Ward.
Words: ©1994 Crown & Covenant Publications
Music: ©1985 James Ward Music*

THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

from Revelation 1:5-6

L: Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins
by His blood,
He has made us to be a kingdom and priests
to serve His God and Father.

P: To Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

There Is a Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer:
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.**

***Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.***

**Jesus, my Redeemer,
name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
hope for sinners slain.**

***Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.***

**When I stand in glory,
I will see His face.
There I'll serve my King forever,
in that holy place.**

***Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.***

Words and music by Melody Green (1982).

© 1982 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; Birdwing Music;
Ears To Hear (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

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

GIVING TO THE LORD

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

This Is My Father's World

**This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings
and around me rings
the music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees,
of skies and seas —
His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world:
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light,
the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.**

**This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass
I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.**

**This is my Father's world:
the battle is not done;
Jesus who died
shall be satisfied
and earth and heav'n be one.**

Words by Maltbie D. Babcock (1901).
Traditional English melody; arr. by Franklin L. Sheppard (1915).
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

from Acts 13

**P: From David's descendants God brought to Israel
the Savior, Jesus, just as He promised.
The people of Jerusalem and their rulers
did not recognize Jesus,
yet in condemning Him
they fulfilled the words of the prophets.
Though they found no proper ground
for a death sentence,
they asked Pilate to have Him executed.
When they had carried out
all that was written about Him,
they took Him down from the tree
and laid Him in a tomb.
But God raised Him from the dead
and for many days He was seen
by those who had traveled with Him.
What God promised our fathers
He has fulfilled for us their children,
by raising up Jesus.
Therefore, through Jesus,
the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you!**

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

I Come By the Blood

**You are the perfect and righteous God
Whose presence bears no sin.**

You bid me come to Your holy place.

**How can I enter in,
when Your presence bears no sin?**

**Through Him who poured out His life for me,
the atoning Lamb of God.**

**Through Him and His work alone,
I boldly come.**

***I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.***

**You are the high and exalted King,
the One the angels fear.**

So far above me in every way,

**Lord, how can I draw near
to the One the angels fear?**

**Through Him who laid down His life for me,
and ascended to Your side.**

**Through Him, through Jesus alone,
I boldly come.**

***I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come ...***

***... by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (1994).

© 1994 Sovereign Grace Worship

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

Song lyrics reproduced by permission: **CCL#11181050**

Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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.

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock

nate@ascension-pca.org

PASTOR EMERITUS:

Rev. Ed Volz

volz.edw@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rina Kroes

office@ascension-pca.org

RULING ELDERS:

C.J. DeGroot

cjdegroot@ascension-pca.org

Rich Rios

rich@ascension-pca.org

Philip Suh

philipsuh@ascension-pca.org

Theo Vander Wel

theo@ascension-pca.org

Brian Walsh

brian@ascension-pca.org

DEACONS:

Bob Briest

bob_briest@ascension-pca.org

Garret Holt

garret@ascension-pca.org

Bill Park

bill@ascension-pca.org

Mike Wheeler

mike@ascension-pca.org

TREASURER:

Jason Rutherford

jason@ascension-pca.org

MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):

Dave Ball

dave@daveball.net

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Anna Hitchcock [temp]

hitchcrew@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge

cmkesledge@gmail.com

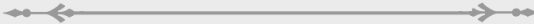
MEAL COORDINATORS:

Sheila Bloedow

s.bloedow@comcast.net

Colette Hudson

colette.hudson@gmail.com



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

Meeting Address: 8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

APC Office: Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)
(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*