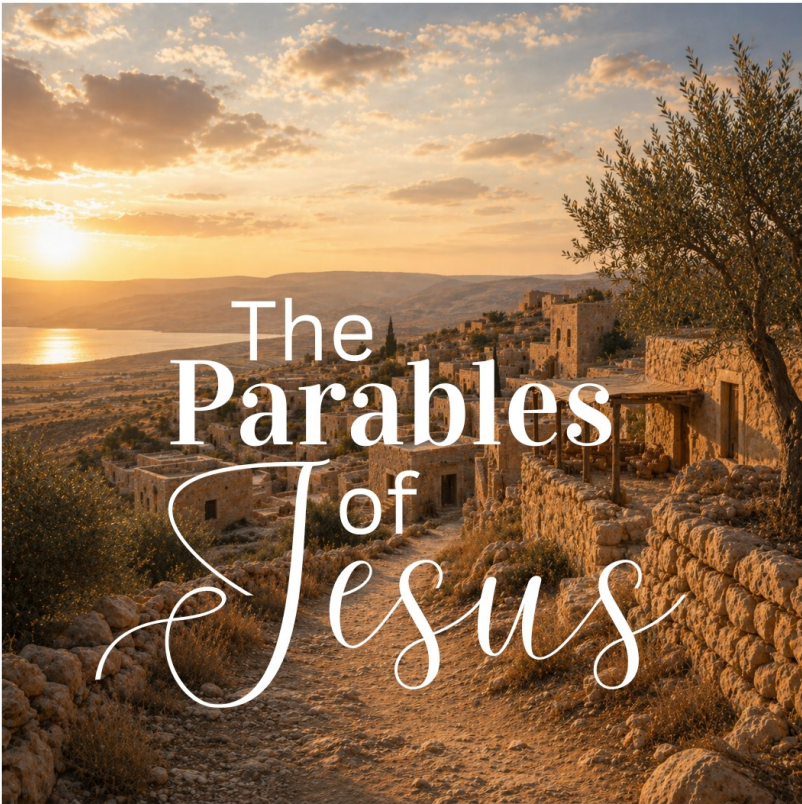




Ascension PCA

June 7, 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.

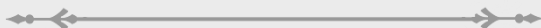
*Clipboards for kids* are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

## **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

*You are great, Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
great is Your power, and to Your wisdom there is no end.*

*And man, being part of Your creation, desires to praise You —  
man, who carries with him his mortality, the witness of his sin,  
and the witness that You resist the proud.*

*Yet man, this part of Your creation, desires to praise You.  
You move us to delight in praising You,  
for You have formed us for Yourself;  
and our hearts are restless until they find rest in You.*

~ Augustine, *Confessions*

# 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

*Elder Philip Suh*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Deuteronomy 32:3-4*

L: I will proclaim the name of the LORD.

**P: Oh, praise the greatness of our God!  
He is the Rock, His works are perfect,  
and all His ways are just.**

L: A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

SONGS OF PRAISE

*Peter Contreras*

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.  
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

Words by Walter Chambers Smith (1867).  
Traditional Welsh hymn melody.  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*How High and How Wide*

**No eye has seen,  
and no ear has heard,  
and no mind has ever conceived,  
the glorious things  
that You have prepared  
for everyone who has believed;  
You brought us near and You called us Your own,  
and made us joint heirs with Your Son.**

*How high and how wide,  
how deep and how long,  
how sweet and how strong is Your love;  
How lavish Your grace,  
how faithful Your ways,  
how great is Your love, O Lord!*

**Objects of mercy  
who should have known wrath,  
we're filled with unspeakable joy.  
Riches of wisdom,  
unsearchable wealth,  
and the wonder of knowing Your voice.  
You are our Treasure and our great Reward,  
our Hope and our glorious King.**

*How high and how wide,  
how deep and how long,  
how sweet and how strong is Your love;  
How lavish Your grace,  
how faithful Your ways,  
how great is Your love, O Lord!*

*How high and how wide,  
how deep and how long,  
how sweet and how strong is Your love;  
How lavish Your grace,  
how faithful Your ways,  
how great is Your love, O Lord,  
how great is Your love, O Lord!*

# 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 117*

*Elder Philip Suh*

- 1 Praise the LORD, all nations!  
Extol Him, all peoples!
- 2 For great is His steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.  
Praise the LORD!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*From The Book of Common Prayer*

**P: Merciful Father,  
we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the schemes and desires  
of our own hearts,  
and have broken Your holy laws.  
We have left undone what we ought to have done,  
and we have done what we ought not to have done.**

**Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us;  
restore those who repent,  
according to the promises declared to us  
through Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Grant, merciful Father, for His sake,  
that from now on,  
we may live godly and obedient lives,  
to the glory of Your holy name.  
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.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*1 John 1:8-9*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*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 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

*Rev. Braden Carter*

## READING OF THE WORD

*Luke 15:11-32*

<sup>11</sup> And He [Jesus] said, "There was a man who had two sons.

<sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, 'Look, these many



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## PRAYER

### GIVING TO THE LORD

*2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

### SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*

**May the mind of Christ, my Savior  
live in me from day to day,  
by His love and pow'r controlling  
all I do and say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly  
in my heart from hour to hour,  
so that all may see I triumph  
only through His pow'r.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me  
as the waters fill the sea;  
Him exalting, self abasing:  
this is victory.**

**May His beauty rest upon me  
as I seek the lost to win,  
and may they forget the channel,  
seeing only Him.**

Words by Kate B. Wilkinson (1925).  
Music by A. Cyril Barham-Gould (1925; alt. 1990)  
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

*Pastor Ed Volz*

## CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1*

L: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**P: That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

## 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

*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 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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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

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)

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