



Ascension PCA

June 14, 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.

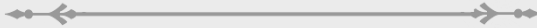
Clipboards for kids are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

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 God the Almighty was making mankind through His own Word, He perceived that they, owing to the limitation of their nature, could not of themselves have any knowledge of their Artificer, the Incorporeal and Uncreated. He took pity on them, therefore, and did not leave them destitute of the knowledge of Himself, lest their very existence should prove purposeless. For of what use is existence to the creature if it cannot know its Maker?

...

But, in fact, the good God has given them a share in His own Image, that is, in our Lord Jesus Christ, and has made even themselves after the same Image and Likeness. Why? Simply in order that through this gift of Godlikeness in themselves they may be able to perceive the Image Absolute, that is the Word Himself, and through Him to apprehend the Father; which knowledge of their Maker is for men the only really happy and blessed life.

~ Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

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 Brian Walsh

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joshua 23:14 & 2 Corinthians 1:20

- L: You know with all your heart and soul
that not one of all the good promises
the LORD your God gave you has failed.
Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.
- P: For no matter how many promises God has made,
they are "Yes" in Christ.
And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us
to the glory of God.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Eric Stark

Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;
behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.**

**No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.**

**His reign shall know no end;
and round His piercéd feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851) Music by George Job Elvey (1868).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

From The Rising Of The Sun (Psalm 113)

**Hallelujah, give praise, you servants.
Praise the name of the Lord.
Let the name of the Lord be blessed
for now and forevermore.**

*From the rising of the sun
to its going down.
Let the name of the Lord be praised
from the rising of the sun.*

**The Lord is high above all nations
and His glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God
Who sits enthroned on high?
Who is like the Lord our God?
Who stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth.**

*From the rising of the sun
to its going down.
Let the name of the Lord be praised
from the rising of the sun.*

**Hallelujah, give praise, you servants.
Praise the name of the Lord.
Let the name of the Lord be blessed
for now and forevermore.**

*From the rising of the sun
to its going down.
Let the name of the Lord be praised
from the rising of the sun.*

***From the rising of the sun
to its going down.
Let the name of the Lord be praised
from the rising of the sun.
from the rising of the sun,
from the rising of the sun.***

Words and music by Sandra McCracken (2015).
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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

Psalm 118

Elder Brian Walsh

- 1 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!
- 2 Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 3 Let the house of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 4 Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 5 Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.
- 6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?
- 7 The LORD is on my side as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
- 8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in man.
- 9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.
- 10 All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
- 11 They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
- 12 They surrounded me like bees;
they went out like a fire among thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
- 13 I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the LORD helped me.

- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.
- 15 Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
16 the right hand of the LORD exalts,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"
- 17 I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- 18 The LORD has disciplined me severely,
but He has not given me over to death.
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
- 20 This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I thank You that You have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
- 23 This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- 27 The LORD is God,
and He has made His light to shine upon us.
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!
- 28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
You are my God; I will extol you.
- 29 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you.**

**You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.**

**Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.**

**Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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

Based on John 1:12-13

To all who receive Him, who believe in His name,
He gives the right to become children of God,
who are born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh
nor of the will of man, but of God.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!**

**And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
©2001 Thankyou Music (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.

PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Rev. Rick DeMass

Mark 5:1-20

¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before Him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸ For He was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³ So He gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.

¹⁸ As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged Him that he might be with Him. ¹⁹ And He did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you." ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

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

"Who's the Beggar Now?"

SERMON NOTES: _____

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

**We will not be burned by the fire;
He is the Lord, our God.
We are not consumed by the flood;
upheld, protected, gathered up.**

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

**In the dark of night, before the dawn,
my soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob be my strength.**

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

**Every vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
bind us together, bring shalom.**

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

***We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.***

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

Rev. Rick DeMass

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

From Hebrews 9 and 10

M: For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that He has died as a ransom to set them free.

**P: Therefore,
since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place
by the blood of Jesus,
by a new and living way opened for us
through the curtain,
that is, His body,
and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
let us draw near to God with a sincere heart
in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us
from a guilty conscience
and having our bodies washed with pure water.
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for He who promised is faithful.**

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

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away
stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross,
where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

O that old rugged cross,
so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God
left His glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

In the old rugged cross,
stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see;
for 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died
to pardon and sanctify me.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

To the old rugged cross
I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then He'll call me some day
to my home far away,
where His glory forever I'll share.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;*

***I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.***

Words and music by George Bennard (1873–1958).
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.

RECESSIONAL SONG

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

***Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

For my cleansing this I see:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this my plea:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

***Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

This is all my hope and peace:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

***Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

Words and music by Robert Lowry (1876).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

BENEDICTION

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Scripture text from

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

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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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