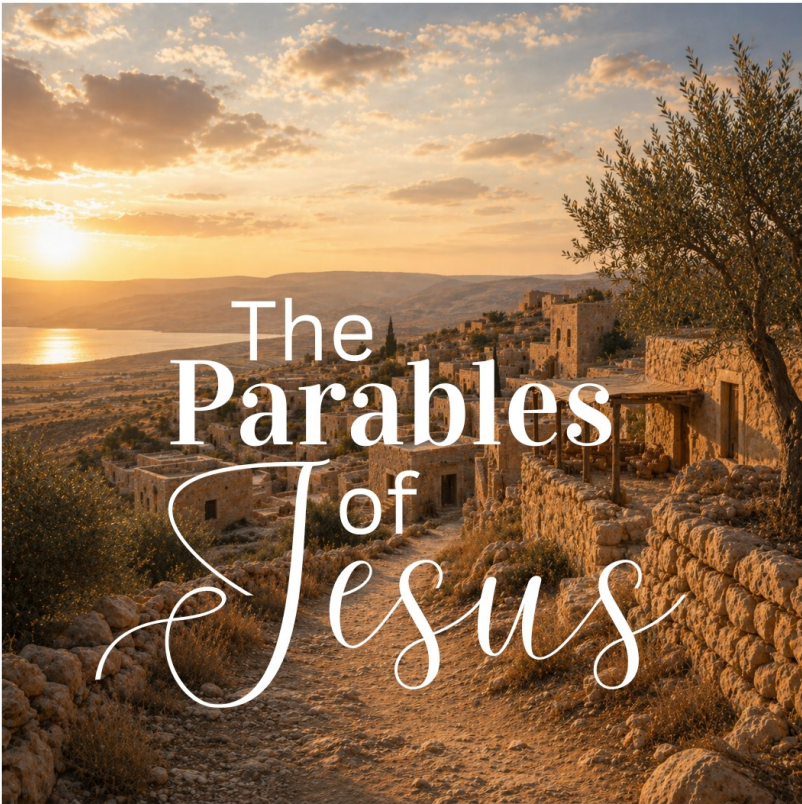




Ascension PCA

July 5, 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.

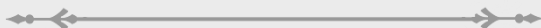
*Clipboards for kids* are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

## **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

*It is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face, and then descends from contemplating Him to scrutinize himself.*

*For we always seem to ourselves righteous and upright and wise and holy — this pride is innate in all of us — unless by clear proofs we stand convinced of our own unrighteousness, foulness, folly, and impurity.*

*Moreover, we are not thus convinced if we look merely to ourselves and not also to the Lord, who is the sole standard by which this judgement must be measured.*

~ John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

# 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 Rich Rios*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*From Psalm 103*

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
    all my inmost being, praise His holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
    and forget not all His benefits —  
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
    and crowns you with love and compassion,  
who satisfies your desires with good things  
    so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**P: The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Keri DeGroot & Zach Herman*

*Come, People of the Risen King*

**Come, people of the risen King,  
who delight to bring Him praise.  
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing  
to the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
we will lift our eyes to Him,  
where steady arms of mercy reach  
to gather children in.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun,  
and those weeping through the night.  
Come, those who tell of battles won,  
and those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change,  
and His mercies never cease,  
but follow us through all our days  
with the certain hope of peace.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, young and old from every land,  
men and women of the faith.  
Come, those with full or empty hands,  
find the riches of His grace.**

**Over all the world, His people sing,  
shore to shore we hear them call  
the Truth that cries through every age:  
our God is all in all!**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.  
© 2002 Thankyou Music

### *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.

## 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 119:49-72*

*Elder Rich Rios*

- 49 Remember Your word to Your servant,  
in which You have made me hope.  
50 This is my comfort in my affliction,  
that Your promise gives me life.  
51 The insolent utterly deride me,  
but I do not turn away from Your law.  
52 When I think of Your rules from of old,  
I take comfort, O LORD.  
53 Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,  
who forsake Your law.  
54 Your statutes have been my songs  
in the house of my sojourning.  
55 I remember Your name in the night, O LORD,  
and keep Your law.  
56 This blessing has fallen to me,  
that I have kept Your precepts.  
57 The LORD is my portion;  
I promise to keep Your words.  
58 I entreat Your favor with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to Your promise.  
59 When I think on my ways,  
I turn my feet to Your testimonies;  
60 I hasten and do not delay  
to keep Your commandments.

61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,  
I do not forget Your law.  
62 At midnight I rise to praise You,  
because of Your righteous rules.  
63 I am a companion of all who fear You,  
of those who keep Your precepts.  
64 The earth, O LORD, is full of Your steadfast love;  
teach me Your statutes!  
65 You have dealt well with Your servant,  
O LORD, according to Your word.  
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge,  
for I believe in Your commandments.  
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
but now I keep Your word.  
68 You are good and do good;  
teach me Your statutes.  
69 The insolent smear me with lies,  
but with my whole heart I keep Your precepts;  
70 their heart is unfeeling like fat,  
but I delight in Your law.  
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted,  
that I might learn Your statutes.  
72 The law of Your mouth is better to me  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

#### CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Lord God, Almighty Father,  
we acknowledge our shame  
before Your holy majesty and freely confess:  
that we are poor sinners, conceived in iniquity,  
that we are prone to do evil, incapable of any good,  
that we offend Your commandments  
without end or ceasing,  
that by our depravity we have earned  
Your righteous judgment and our eternal ruin.  
Nevertheless, O Lord God, Almighty Father,  
we are grieved most for offending You.  
We condemn ourselves with true repentance  
and plead for Your grace to relieve our sorrow.  
O God and Father, have mercy on us  
in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
And as You blot out our sin,  
give us also the grace of the Holy Spirit  
by whom we will be able to bring forth  
the fruits of righteousness and innocence,  
in keeping with the repentance we profess today.  
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

*Isaiah 43:1-3*

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are Mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*His Mercy is More*

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness He lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa.

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# 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

*Rev. Barry McWilliams*

## READING OF THE WORD

*Luke 14:1-24*

<sup>1</sup> One Sabbath, when He went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching Him carefully. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a man before Him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup> And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" <sup>4</sup> But they remained silent. Then He took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup> And He said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" <sup>6</sup> And they could not reply to these things.

<sup>7</sup> Now He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, <sup>9</sup> and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup> For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the man who had invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

<sup>15</sup> When one of those who reclined at table with Him heard these things, He said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" <sup>16</sup> But He said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. <sup>17</sup> And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' <sup>18</sup> But they all alike began to make

excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.'<sup>19</sup> And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.'<sup>20</sup> And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'<sup>21</sup> So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'<sup>22</sup> And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'<sup>23</sup> And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'<sup>24</sup> For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

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

*"The Meltdown"*

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Today is the monthly offering for our DEACON FUND and MERCY MINISTRIES.*

*Matthew 6:31-33*

"Do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*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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## **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**

*Colossians 1:15–20*

**P: He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For by Him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth,  
visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities  
all things were created through Him and for Him.  
And He is before all things,  
and in Him all things hold together.  
And He is the head of the body, the church.  
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,  
that in everything He might be preeminent.  
For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
making peace by the blood of His cross.**

### **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

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heav'n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration  
now and forevermore be Thine.**

*Words from *Münster Gesangbuch* (1677); tr. by Joseph Seiss (1873).*

*Music from *Shlesische Volkslieder* (1842).*

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

*Tell Out, My Soul*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers, dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961).

Music by Holly Dutton (2001);

Words: ©1961 Hope Publishing Company. Music: ©2001 Dutton, Holly

## 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

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

**Meeting Address:** 8224 220<sup>th</sup> 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*