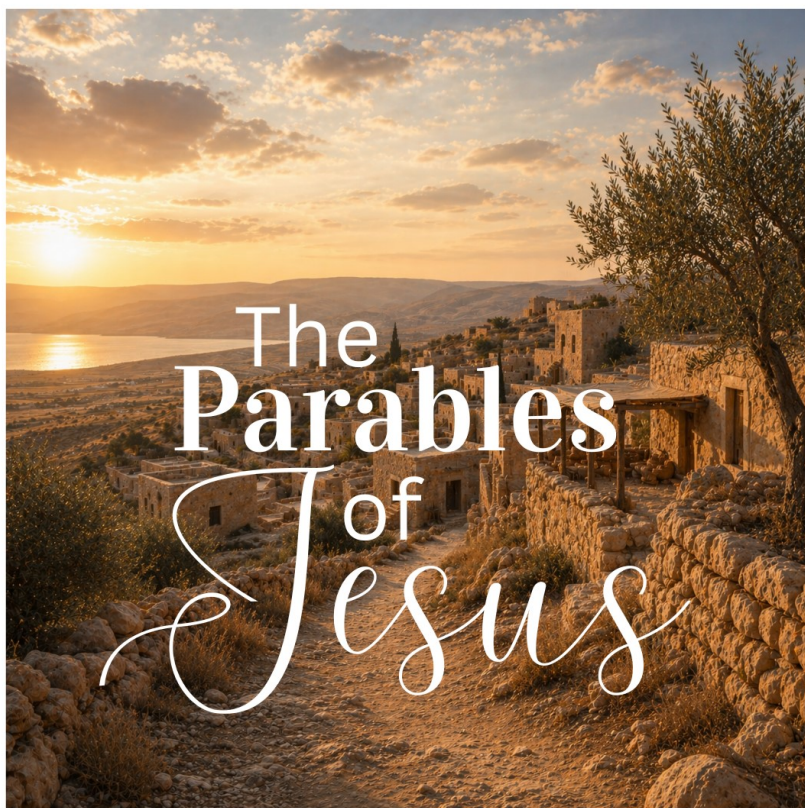




Ascension PCA

July 19, 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

*True faith in Christ, though it be but a day old,
justifies a man before God as completely as
the faith of him who has followed Christ for fifty years.*

*The righteousness in which Timothy will stand
at the day of judgment,
is the same as that of the penitent thief.*

*Both will be saved by grace alone;
both will owe all to Christ.*

~ JC Ryle, *Ryle on Gospels*

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 Theo Vander Wel

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 121

L: We lift up our eyes to the hills.
From where does our help come?

**P: Our help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let our foot be moved;
He who keeps us will not slumber.**

**The LORD will keep us from all evil;
He will keep our lives.**

**The LORD will keep
our going out and our coming in forevermore.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Eric Stark

O Worship the King

**O worship the King, all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love.
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words by Robert Grant (1833)

Music by Johann M. Haydn (1737–1806), arr. William Gardiner (1815)

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 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 119:97-120

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 97 Oh how I love Your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
- 98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for Your testimonies are my meditation.
- 100 I understand more than the aged,
for I keep Your precepts.
- 101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep Your word.
- 102 I do not turn aside from Your rules,
for You have taught me.
- 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.
- 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
- 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to keep Your righteous rules.
- 107 I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O LORD, according to Your word!
- 108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me Your rules.
- 109 I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget Your law.
- 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from Your precepts.
- 111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever,
for they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I incline my heart to perform Your statutes
forever, to the end.
- 113 I hate the double-minded,
but I love Your law.
- 114 You are my hiding place and my shield;
I hope in Your word.
- 115 Depart from me, You evildoers,
that I may keep the commandments of my God.
- 116 Uphold me according to Your promise, that I may live,
and let me not be put to shame in my hope!
- 117 Hold me up, that I may be safe
and have regard for Your statutes continually!
- 118 You spurn all who go astray from Your statutes,
for their cunning is in vain.
- 119 All the wicked of the earth You discard like dross,
therefore I love Your testimonies.
- 120 My flesh trembles for fear of You,
and I am afraid of Your judgments.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN READING

From the Beatitudes

**P: Blessed Jesus, You offered us all Your benedictions
when you announced,**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit"
but we have been rich in pride.

"Blessed are those who mourn"
but we have not known much sorrow for our sin.

"Blessed are the meek"
but we are a stiff-necked people.

***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness"***
but we are filled to the full with other things.

"Blessed are the merciful"
but we are harsh and impatient.

"Blessed are the pure in heart"
but we have impure hearts.

"Blessed are the peacemakers"
but we have not sought reconciliation.

***"Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness"***
but our lives do not challenge the world.

***"Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of Me"***

but we have hardly made it known that we are Yours.

**We plead to the Father, in Your name,
to grant us forgiveness
and give us the blessedness of Your righteousness.
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

From Zechariah 3

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
He has cleared away your enemies.

The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

**To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need His power is displayed.**

**To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won,
and I shall overcome.
*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

**To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
until I stand with joy before the throne.**

**To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

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

Elder Theo Vander Wel

READING OF THE WORD

Rev. Braden Carter

Matthew 20:1-16

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'

⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.'

⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'

¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

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

"Parable about Grace"

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Grace Alone

**I was an orphan, lost at the fall,
running away when I'd hear You call,
but Father, You worked Your will.
I had no righteousness of my own.
I had no right to draw near Your throne,
but Father, You loved me still.**

***And in love before You laid the world's foundation,
You predestined to adopt me as Your own.
You have raised me up so high above my station;
I'm a child of God by grace and grace alone.***

**You left Your home to seek out the lost,
You knew the great and terrible cost,
but Jesus, Your face was set.
I worked my fingers down to the bone,
but nothing I did could ever atone.
But Jesus, You paid my debt.**

***By Your blood I have redemption and salvation.
Lord, You died that I might reap what You have sown,
and You rose that I might be a new creation.
I am born again by grace and grace alone.***

**I was in darkness all of my life,
I never knew the day from the night,
but Spirit, You made me see.
I swore I knew the way on my own,
head full of rocks, a heart made of stone;
but Spirit, You moved in me.**

***And at Your touch my sleeping spirit was awakened;
on my darkened heart the light of Christ has shone.
Called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
Heaven's citizen by grace and grace alone.***

**So I'll stand in faith by grace and grace alone.
I will run the race by grace and grace alone.
I will slay my sin by grace and grace alone.
I will reach the end by grace and grace alone.**

Words and music by Dustin Kensrue (2013).

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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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

The Belgic Confession, Article 20

**P: We believe that God,
who is perfectly merciful and just,
sent His Son to assume that nature
in which the disobedience was committed,
to make satisfaction in the same
and to bear the punishment of sin
by His most bitter passion and death.**

**God therefore manifested His justice against His Son
when He laid our iniquities upon Him
and poured forth His mercy and goodness on us,
who were guilty and worthy of damnation,
out of mere and perfect love,
giving His Son unto death for us
and raising Him for our justification,
that through Him we might obtain immortality
and life eternal.**

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

Here Is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
lovingkindness as the flood,
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me, all Thy love accepting,
love Thee, ever all my days;
let me seek Thy kingdom only
and my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
by Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
and Thy grace my need is meeting,
as I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
without measure, full and boundless,
drawing out my heart to Thee.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
without measure, full and boundless,
drawing out my heart to Thee.

Words by William Rees (1802–1883); vv. 3–4 attr. to William Williams.
Music by Robert Lowry (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.

RECESSIONAL SONG

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!**

**What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations?
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our Refuge;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

**Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
all to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon, in glory bright unclouded
Face to face will be our prayer;
Rapture, praise, and endless worship
will be our sweet portion there.**

Words by Joseph Medlicott Scriven (circa 1855).
Music by Charles Crozat Converse (1868).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

BENEDICTION

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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
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed on the back page.

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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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