



July 26, 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

*The Word of God came Himself,
in order that He being the image of the Father,
the human being "in the image" might be recreated.
It could not, again, have been done in any other way,
without death and corruption being utterly destroyed.
So He rightly took a mortal body,
that in it death might henceforth be destroyed utterly
and human beings be renewed again
according to the image.
For this purpose, then, there was need of none other
than the Image of the Father.*

~ 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 CJ DeGroot

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Ephesians 3

L: Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that is at work within us,
to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations,
for ever and ever!

P: Amen, amen!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Eric Stark

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is
thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear,
now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under His wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,
who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy
here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if with His love He befriend thee !**

**Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!**

**Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly for all we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863).
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

How Great Thou Art

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

Words by Carl Gustav Boberg; translated by Stuart K. Hine (1949)
Swedish Folk Melody, arr. by Stuart K. Kline (1949)
© 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. by Hope Publishing Company

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 119:121-144

Elder CJ DeGroot

- 121 I have done what is just and right;
do not leave me to my oppressors.
122 Give Your servant a pledge of good;
let not the insolent oppress me.
123 My eyes long for Your salvation
and for the fulfillment of Your righteous promise.
124 Deal with Your servant according to Your steadfast love,
and teach me Your statutes.
125 I am Your servant; give me understanding,
that I may know Your testimonies!
126 It is time for the LORD to act,
for Your law has been broken.
127 Therefore I love Your commandments
above gold, above fine gold.
128 Therefore I consider all Your precepts to be right;
I hate every false way.
129 Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
130 The unfolding of Your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.
131 I open my mouth and pant,
because I long for Your commandments.
132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is Your way with those who love Your name.
133 Keep steady my steps according to Your promise,
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.
134 Redeem me from man's oppression,
that I may keep Your precepts.
135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant,
and teach me Your statutes.
136 My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep Your law.
137 Righteous are you, O LORD,
and right are Your rules.
138 You have appointed Your testimonies in righteousness
and in all faithfulness.

139 My zeal consumes me,
 because my foes forget Your words.
 140 Your promise is well tried,
 and Your servant loves it.
 141 I am small and despised,
 yet I do not forget Your precepts.
 142 Your righteousness is righteous forever,
 and Your law is true.
 143 Trouble and anguish have found me out,
 but Your commandments are my delight.
 144 Your testimonies are righteous forever;
 give me understanding that I may live.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN READING

L: Jesus taught us, saying:
 "Love the Lord your God
 with all your heart and with all your soul
 and with all your mind.'
 This is the first and greatest commandment.
 And the second is like it:
 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
 All the law and the prophets hang on these
 two commandments."

**P: Gracious Savior, because of the increase of wickedness,
 the love of most has grown cold.
 The evil one has snatched the Word from many hearts.
 It has sprouted in our own, but hardly takes root.
 Your commands are chased away by trouble
 and persecution.
 They are overcome by the deceitfulness of wealth
 and the worries of this world.
 Lord, have mercy on us
 and give us love for God above all things;
 love with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind.
 And grant us love for our neighbor, above ourselves.
 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 Acts 16 and Romans 4

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.
 For He was delivered over to death for our sins
 and was raised to life for our justification.
 In Him our sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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).

© 2013 Dead Bird Theology, It's All About Jesus Music, We Are Younger We Are Faster 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.

PRAYER

Elder Philip Suh

READING OF THE WORD

Genesis 1:26–31, 2:7

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

⁷ ... then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

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 Image of God"

SERMON NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalms 96:8-9

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
bring an offering, and come into His courts!
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before Him, all the earth!

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus Paid It All

**I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
child of weakness, watch and pray,
find in Me thine all in all."**

***Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.***

**Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power, and Thine alone,
can change the leper's spots,
and melt the heart of stone.**

***Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.***

**For nothing good have I
whereby Thy grace to claim —
I'll wash my garments white
in the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.**

***Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.***

**And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
my lips shall still repeat.**

***Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.***

Words by Elvina Mabel Hall (1865; mod.).

Music by John Thomas Grape (1868).

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.

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Titus 3:3-7

**P: For we ourselves were once foolish,
disobedient, led astray,
slaves to various passions and pleasures,
passing our days in malice and envy,
hated by others and hating one another.
But when the goodness and loving kindness
of God our Savior appeared,
He saved us,
not because of works done by us in righteousness,
but according to His own mercy,
by the washing of regeneration
and renewal of the Holy Spirit,
whom He poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that being justified by His grace
we might become heirs
according to the hope of eternal life.**

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

Before the Throne of God Above

**Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea:
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,
my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there,
who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Savior died
my sinful soul is counted free,
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of Glory and of Grace.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God;
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God;
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997).
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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

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"**

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'neath the healing cleansing flood.

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy, and peace.

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
will be with me to the end.

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

Words by Louisa M.R. Stead (1882).
Music by William J. Kirkpatrick (1882).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

BENEDICTION

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Scripture text from

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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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