Ascension PCA

August 16, 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 righteous carves his name upon the rock,
but the wicked writes his remembrance in the sand.
The righteous man ploughs the furrows of earth,
and sows a harvest here, which shall never be fully reaped
till he enters the enjoyments of eternity;
but as for the wicked, he ploughs the sea,
and though there may seem to be a shining trail
behind his keel, yet the waves shall pass over it,
and the place that knew him shall know him no more
for ever.

~ Charles Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*

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

Psalm 100

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!

P: Know that the LORD, He is God!
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

L: Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

P: For the LORD is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Rise My Soul, The Lord Is Risen

Rise, my soul the Lord is risen!
Come, behold the empty grave.
See the place where darkness laid Him.
Sing, for only hope remains.

Hallelujah, praise forever!
Death defeated and life restored
by that great immortal power.
Christ is risen, arise my soul!

Rest my soul, the Lord is risen.
Love's redeeming work is done.
Now the Father sees His children
as He sees His sinless Son.

Oh the wonder, oh the glory,
that same favor is now my own.
Shame behind, me grace before me.
Christ is risen, arise my soul.

Peace, my soul the Lord is risen,
Come and have your hope renewed
for this trial is brief and fleeting,
tears will turn to glory soon.

Shout with joy and sound the triumph,
let the music of heaven roar!
Let the boast of death be silent.
Christ is risen, arise my soul.

Arise my soul for I am risen,
seated now with Christ, my Lord.
As my life belongs to heaven,
fear shall hold its sway no more.

Onward, upward, t'ward the treasure,
filled with courage and endless hope.
For this truth is mine forever:
Christ is risen, arise my soul!

Onward, upward, t'ward the treasure,
filled with courage and endless hope.
For this truth is mine forever:
Christ is risen, arise my soul!
Christ is risen, arise my soul!
Christ is risen, arise my soul!

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Rich Thompson.
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Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging,
mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless 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.
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GOD CLEANSES 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 120 — *Elder Rich Rios*

1 In my distress I called to the LORD,
and He answered me.
2 Deliver me, O LORD,
from lying lips,
from a deceitful tongue.
3 What shall be given to you,
and what more shall be done to you,
you deceitful tongue?
4 A warrior's sharp arrows,
with glowing coals of the broom tree!
5 Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech,
that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

6 Too long have I had my dwelling
among those who hate peace.
7 I am for peace,
but when I speak, they are for war!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

From The Valley of Vision

P: O my Savior, help me.
I am slow to learn, prone to forget and weak to climb.
I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights.
I am pained by my graceless heart,
my prayerless days,
my poverty of love,
my sloth in the heavenly race,
my sullied conscience,
my wasted hours and
my unspent opportunities.
I am blind while the light shines around me:
take the scales from my eyes,
grind to dust my heart of unbelief.

Make it my highest joy to study You,
meditate on You,
gaze on You,
sit, like Mary, at Your feet,
lean, like John, on Your breast,
appeal, like Peter, to Your love,
count, like Paul, all things dung.
I believe, help my unbelief.
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

Ephesians 1:7–8

In Christ we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of Hs grace,
which He lavished upon us.

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).
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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

Elder Rich Rios

READING OF THE WORD

Mr. Mackenzie Boudreaux

Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the man
who walks not in counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on His law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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 is the Blessed Man?"

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 116:12

What shall I render to the LORD
for all His benefits to me?

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

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!

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

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa.
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Love Your Enemies Publishing, Messenger Hymns

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. Ed Volz

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

From The Belgic Confession, Article 18

P: We confess, therefore, that God did fulfill the promise which He made to the fathers by the mouth of His holy prophets when He sent into the world, at the time appointed by Him, His own only-begotten and eternal Son, who took upon Him the form of a servant, and became like unto man, really assuming the true human nature, with all its infirmities, sin excepted, being conceived in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Ghost, without the means of man; and did not only assume human nature as to the body, but also a true human soul, that He might be a real man. For since the soul was lost as well as the body, it was necessary that He should take both upon him, to save both.

Therefore we confess that Christ…
became like unto His brethren in all things, sin excepted;
so that in truth He is our Immanuel,
that is to say, God with us.

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.

RECESSIONAL SONG

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Words by Elisha Hoffman (1887). Music by Anthony J. Showalter (1887).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

BENEDICTION

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

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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