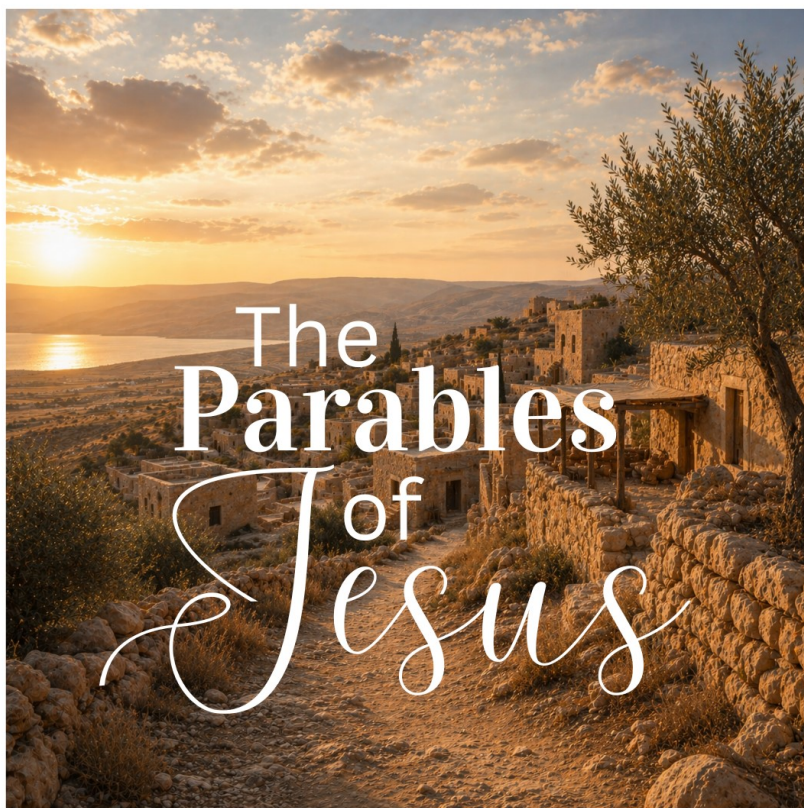




Ascension PCA

August 23, 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 kingdom of heaven,
which must be sought first,
brings all the other things in its wake.
Godliness is profitable to all things
having promise of the life that now is,
and of that which is to come.

~ Herman Bavinck, *The Wonderful Works of God*

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

ending in The Lord's Prayer (KJV)

**P: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jude 24-25

**L: To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you
before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy —**
**P: To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty,
power, and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
before all ages, now and forevermore!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

**I sing the mighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command,
and all the stars obey.**
**I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with His Word
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Your wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the sky!**

**There's not a plant or flower below
but makes Your glories known,
And clouds arise and tempests blow,
by order from Your throne.
While all that borrows life from You
is ever in Your care,
And everywhere that man can be,
You, God, are present there.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1714; Mod.).
Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)
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.*

**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,
from the rising of the sun,
from the rising of the sun.***

Words and music by Sandra McCracken (2015).
© 2015 Drink Your Tea 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

Psalms 121

Elder CJ DeGroot

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
- ² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
- ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
He will keep your life.
- ⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Lord, our God, we have forsaken Your law,
Your holy and perfect law, which You set before us.
Instead we have followed the stubbornness
of our own hearts
and the ways of false gods
or of our vain imaginations.
God have mercy on us for our transgressions.
But, O Lord, our sorrow is greater still,
for without Your mercy we cannot change.
Can a man change his skin or the leopard its spots?
Neither can we do good who are accustomed to
doing evil.
Although our sins testify against us, O Lord,
do something for the sake of Your name.
For our backsliding is great;
we have sinned against You.
You are among us, O Lord, and we bear Your name;
do not forsake us!
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 Romans 8

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all,
how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers,
nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Blessed Be Your Name

**Blessed be Your name
in the land that is plentiful,
where Your streams of abundance flow,
blessed be Your name.**

**Blessed be Your name
when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness,
blessed be Your name.**

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say:**

***"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.***

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name."***

**Blessed be Your name
when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's "all as it should be,"
blessed be Your name.**

**Blessed be Your name
on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering,
blessed be Your name.**

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say:**

***"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.***

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name."***

**You give and take away.
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say:
*"Lord, blessed be Your name."***

***"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.***

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name."***

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

Pastor Ed Volz

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And He said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

¹⁶ And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’” ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’” ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

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

“Are You Rich Toward God?”

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust destroy
and where thieves break in and steal,
but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

I Love to Tell the Story

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

***I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.***

**I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.**

***I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.***

**I love to tell the story; for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.**

***I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.***

Words by Arabella Katherine Hankey (1866).

Music by William Gustavus Fischer (1869).

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Rev. Ed Volz

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

The Apostles' Creed

**P: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven
and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

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

Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
as long as life endures.**

**Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

St. 1–5 by John Newton (1779);

St. 6 from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads* (1790).

Traditional American melody; arr. by Edwin O. Excell (1900).

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

There Is A Fountain

**There is a fountain filled with blood,
drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
lose all their guilty stains:
lose all their guilty stains,
lose all their guilty stains;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
lose all their guilty stains.**

**The dying thief rejoiced to see
that fountain in his day;
and there have I, as vile as he,
washed all my sins away:
washed all my sins away,
washed all my sins away;
and there have I, as vile as he,
washed all my sins away.**

**Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
shall never lose its pow'r,
till all the ransomed Church of God
be saved, to sin no more:
be saved, to sin no more,
be saved, to sin no more;
till all the ransomed Church of God
be saved to sin no more.**

**E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love has been my theme,
and shall be till I die:
and shall be till I die,
and shall be till I die;
redeeming love has been my theme,
and shall be till I die.**

**When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
lies silent in the grave:
then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save,**

I'll sing Thy pow'r to save,
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save;
then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save.

There is a fountain filled with blood,
drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
lose all their guilty stains.

Words by William Cowper (1771; Mod.).

Music by Edwin Othello Excell and Lowell Mason (1830).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

BENEDICTION

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Scripture text from

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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