

September 6, 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

*Throughout the saga of history, God consistently initiates
relationship. He is a gracious host, constantly welcoming in
wayward sinners who deserve His wrath — a people whose only
hope is that He would show them undeserved hospitality.*

*If ever there has been a stranger in need, someone completely
excluded and hopeless, fully dependent on the grace of another
— that is us... and all throughout history, God opens the door,
rescues us, and welcomes us back into relationship through
sheer, inexplicable grace.*

~ Dustin Willis & Brandon Clements

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

ending with the Lord's Prayer

**P: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on 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
forever, Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

**M: Blessed be our God! Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.**

Let us now lift our hearts to the Lord.

**P: We lift our hearts to the Lord, let us give thanks to Him,
for it is good and right to do so!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**The Lord ye know is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

*Words by William Kethe (1561). Music by Louis Bourgeois (1551).
PUBLIC DOMAIN*

Christus Victor

**O Most High, King of the ages,
Great I AM, God of wonders,
by the blood, You have redeemed us,
led us through mighty waters,
our strength, our song, our sure salvation.**

***Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah! Amen.***

**O Most High, dwelling among us,
Son of man, sent for sinners,
by Your blood, You have redeemed us,
Spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
who lived, who died, who rose victorious.**

***Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!***

***With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah! Amen.***

**O Most High, King of the nations,
robed in praise, crowned with splendor,
on that day, who will not tremble
when You stand Christ the Victor
who was and is and is forever.**

***Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!***

***With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah! Amen.***

***Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.***

***Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!***

***With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah!
Sing the victory of the Lamb.
Hallelujah! Amen.
Amen.***

Words and music by Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty,
Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.
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Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns

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 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
- 2 Our feet have been standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- 3 Jerusalem — built as a city
that is bound firmly together,
4 to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- 5 There thrones for judgment were set,
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
"May they be secure who love you!"
- 7 Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!"
- 8 For my brothers and companions' sake
I will say, "Peace be within you!"
- 9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Most Holy and Merciful Father,
We acknowledge and confess before You
our sinful nature, prone to evil and slothful in good,
and all our shortcomings and offenses.**

**You alone know how often we have sinned:
in wandering from Your ways,
in wasting Your gifts,
in forgetting Your love.**

**O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Teach us to hate our errors;
cleanse us from our secret faults;
and forgive our sins for the sake of Your dear Son.
And help us Father, to live in Your light
and walk in Your ways,
according to the commandments of Jesus Christ
our Lord. 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

Psalm 103:8 & 1 Peter 1:3

The LORD
is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love. ... Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to
a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Depth of Mercy

**Depth of mercy! Can there be,
mercy reaching even me?
God, the Just, His wrath forbears,
me the chief of sinners, spares.
So many times my heart has strayed
from His kind and perfect ways;
Making clear my desp'rate need
for His blood — poured out for me.**

**Give me grace, Lord, let me own
all the wrongs that I have done.
Let me now my sins deplore,
look to You and sin no more.
There, for me, the Savior stands
holding forth His wounded hands,
Scars which ever cry for me;
Once condemned ... but now set free.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707–1788).
Music by Bob Kauflin (1997).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 1997 Sovereign Grace Praise

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

"My Gospel Story"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will give you many opportunities to do good, and He will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

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.***

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.
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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

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

The Nicene Creed

- P: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all**

**things were made;
who, for us and for our salvation, came down from
heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin
Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and
the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of
the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge
both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have
no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver
of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.**

**And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life
of the world to come.**

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

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
to Thy glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He loveth, ever loveth,**

changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to Thee.

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).
Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)
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

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.***

Words by Fanny J. Crosby (1873). Music by Phoebe P. Knapp (1873).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

BENEDICTION

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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

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