

September 20, 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

*God loves the Church with a love too deep for human
imagination: He loves her with all His infinite heart...*

*You may fear that the Lord has passed you by, but it is not so: He
who counts the stars, and calls them by their names, is in no
danger of forgetting His own children. He knows your case as
thoroughly as if you were the only creature He ever made, or the
only saint He ever loved. **Approach Him and be at peace.***

-Charles Spurgeon

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

CALL TO WORSHIP: Galatians 1:3-5

M: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to deliver
us from the present evil age, according to the will of our
God and Father, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen

SONGS OF PRAISE

All Creatures of Our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise Him! Alleluia!**

**Thou, burning sun with golden beam,
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!**
**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All the redeemed washed by His blood,
come and rejoice in His great love,
O praise Him! Alleluia!**
**Christ has defeated every sin,
cast all your burdens now on Him,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**He shall return in pow'r to reign,
Heaven and earth will join to say,**

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Then who shall fall on bended knee?

all creatures of our God and King,

O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Original words (v. 1–2) by St. Francis of Assisi, translated by William Henry Draper (1926).

Additional words (v. 3–4) by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird. 16th Century German tune, adapted by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird. © 2013 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP). Sovereign Grace Music.

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation

is Jesus Christ, her Lord;

she is His new creation

by water and the Word.

From heav'n He came and sought her

to be His holy bride;

with His own blood He bought her,

and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,

yet one o'er all the earth,

her charter of salvation:

one Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name she blesses,

partakes one holy food,

and to one hope she presses,

with ev'ry grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union

with God the Three in One,

and mystic sweet communion

with those whose rest is won;

O happy ones and holy!

Lord, give us grace that we,

like them, the meek and lowly,

on high may dwell with Thee.

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866). Music by Samuel S. Wesley (1864), 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 124

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side- let Israel now say-

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth! We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken and we have escaped!

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: O Lord, You have promised to deliver us; and have purchased our salvation through Jesus.

You have promised to restore and guide us; and have given us Your Spirit as our Counselor and Your Word as our instruction.

You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us-to be more faithful than a mother to her child...

Yet we have failed to trust You. We have grumbled at hardship. We have pursued and worried about material needs, as if we had no Father. We have busied ourselves with things of this world, while neglecting Your treasures entrusted to our care.

Lord, have mercy on us; forgive our faithless striving, forgive our unfaithful neglect. Renew in us a desire to be true to You, and diligence for the long faithfulness. 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 & Isaiah 12:1-2

M: In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

P: We will praise You, O Lord.

**Although You were angry with us,
Your anger has turned away and You have comforted us.
Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and not
be afraid.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Man of Sorrows! What a Name

**Man of sorrows! what a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!**

**Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood,
sealed my pardon with his blood;
Hallelujah! what a Savior!**

**Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
spotless Lamb of God was he;
full atonement! can it be?
Hallelujah! what a Savior!**

**Lifted up was he to die,
"It is finished!" was his cry;
now in heav'n exalted high:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!**

Philip P. Bliss (1875)

PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 1:18-25

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

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 Grievous Exchange"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that Thou art —
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all ...
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905), versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927) 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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

based on Matt 16:16, Mk 16:9, Jn 20:28, 1 Cor 15:1-6, Rev 22:13, & Rom 8

P: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day, and that He appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God.

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced 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.

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

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

**How deep the Father's love for us;
how vast beyond all measure,
that He would give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.**

**How great the pain of searing loss;
the Father turns His face away,**

**as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross;
my guilt upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.**

**It was my sin that held Him there,
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.**

**Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.**

**But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

**Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.**

**But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Words & music by Stuart Townend (1995).

© 1995 ThankYou Music

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
and 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

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.

BENEDICTION

Song lyrics reproduced by permission: **CCL#11181050**

Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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.

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock *nate@ascension-pca.org*

PASTOR EMERITUS:

Rev. Ed Volz *volz.edw@gmail.com*

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rina Kroes *office@ascension-pca.org*

RULING ELDERS:

C.J. DeGroot *cjdegroot@ascension-pca.org*

Rich Rios *rich@ascension-pca.org*

Philip Suh *philipsuh@ascension-pca.org*

Theo Vander Wel *theo@ascension-pca.org*

Brian Walsh *brian@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

Bob Briest *bob_briest@ascension-pca.org*

Garret Holt *garret@ascension-pca.org*

Bill Park *bill@ascension-pca.org*

Mike Wheeler *mike@ascension-pca.org*

TREASURER:

Jason Rutherford *jason@ascension-pca.org*

MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):

Andrew Tanamas *andrewtanamas@gmail.com*

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Anna Hitchcock [temp] *hitchcrew@gmail.com*

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge *cmkesledge@gmail.com*

MEAL COORDINATORS:

Sheila Bloedow *s.bloedow@comcast.net*

Colette Hudson *colette.hudson@gmail.com*

ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

Meeting Address: 8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

APC Office: Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)
(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*