

October 11, 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

*A child of the Father, He made me to be
and gave me the Spirit as His guarantee.*

*That, being God's child, I will one day obtain
a heavenly treasure that will never wane.*

*While in me, the Spirit gives power and love
and sweet premonitions of glory above.*

So this is my story; ongoing it is.

How shall I thank God for this gospel of His?

*A gift that keeps giving, the gospel confers
the bounty of heaven each time I rehearse.*

*Deserve it? I don't on my holiest day;
but this is salvation, and herein I'll stay.*

~ Milton Vincent

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

Hebrews 1:1–3

M: Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

P: but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son,

M: whom He appointed the heir of all things,
through whom He also created the world.

**P: He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint
of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of
His power.**

M: After making purification for sins, He sat down
at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

P: Praise God for the gift of the Son!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalms 89

**Lord, the heavens praise Your wonders,
angels sing Your faithfulness.**

**For none matches God in heaven,
who's like God in heaven's throng?**

**God is feared among the angels,
He's more awesome than they all.
Lord, O God of hosts, who's like You?
Mighty God, You're bound with truth.**

**You rule o'er the sea's proud surging;
when its waves rise, bid them still.
You rule nations, they do Your bidding;
Your strong arm disperses foes.**

**Yours the heavens, earth's bounds also;
You have founded all the world.
North and south You have created;
all creation sings Your praise.**

**You've an arm that's great in power;
Your strong hand is all supreme.
Your rule's based on right and justice,
cov'nant love and truth are Yours.**

**They are happy who acclaim You;
in Your favor, Lord, they walk.
In Your Name rejoicing ever;
in Your righteousness raised high.**

Words from *The Trinity Psalter*. Music by Asahel Nettleton (1825).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Only a Holy God

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
*Only a Holy God.***

**What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
*Only a Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
*Only a Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Who else could rescue me from my failing?

Who else would offer His only Son?

Who else invites me to call Him Father?

***Only a Holy God,
Only my Holy God!***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

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

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Integrity's Praise! Music, and CityAlight 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 127

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,

eating the bread of anxious toil;
for He gives to His beloved sleep.

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.

Blessed is the man

who fills his quiver with them!

He shall not be put to shame

when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from The Valley of Vision

P: Lord Jesus,

**Give me a deeper repentance, a horror of sin,
a dread of its approach;**

**help me to flee it, and jealously to resolve
that my heart shall be Yours alone.**

Give me a deeper trust,

**that I may lose myself to find myself in You,
the ground of my rest, the spring of my being.**

**Give me a deeper knowledge of Yourself as Savior,
Master, Lord, and King.**

**Give me deeper power in private prayer,
more sweetness in Your Word,
more steadfast grip on its truth.**

**Give me deeper holiness in speech, thought, action,
and let me not seek moral virtue apart from You.**

Plough deep in me, great Lord,

**that my being may be a tilled field,
the roots of grace spreading far and wide,
until You alone are seen in me,**

**Your beauty golden like summer harvest,
Your fruitfulness as autumn plenty. 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

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said: "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

Come, Ye Sinners

**Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,
full of pity joined with pow'r.
He is able, He is able;
He is willing, doubt no more.**

**Come, ye needy, come and welcome;
God's free bounty glorify:
True belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money
come to Jesus Christ and buy.**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
bruised and broken by the fall.
If you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous;
sinners Jesus came to call.
Not the righteous, not the righteous;
sinners Jesus came to call.**

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); adapted by Matthew Smith.

Music by Matthew Smith (2000).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2000 detuned radio music

The King of Love

**The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am His
and He is mine forever.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love He sought me,
and on His shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with You, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.**

**And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
within Your house forever.**

Words by Henry W. Baker (1868). Old Irish Hymn Melody.
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 2:17 – 3:8

¹⁷ But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God ¹⁸ and know His will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; ¹⁹ and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth — ²¹ you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. ²⁴ For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

²⁵ For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶ So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not

his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

3 ¹ Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,
"That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged."

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God's truth abounds to His glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸ And why not do evil that good may come? — as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

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

"False Security"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

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

He Will Hold Me Fast

**When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.**

**I could never keep my hold
through life's fearful path;
for my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.**

**He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.**

**Raised with Him to endless life;
He will hold me fast;
'till our faith is turned to sight,
when He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1–2 by Ada Habershon (1861–1918).

Alt words vv. 1–2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker (2013).

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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 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

Keep the Feast

**Joyfully we join You at Your table,
pleading not our righteousness,
By Your wealth of mercy we are able
now to feast in confidence.**

***Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

**Who is fit to feast with such a Savior?
Who His sandals could untie?
Who are we that He would show us favor,
granting us this gift of life?**

***Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

**Happy sign of friendship and reunion
with the blessed Three in One.
Foretaste of that glorious communion,
vision of the world to come.**

***Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

Words and music by Skye Peterson and Ben Shive (2024).
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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.

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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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

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