



Ascension PCA

October 18, 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

"Whoever comes to Me I will never cast out." ~ John 6:37

For those united to Him, the heart of Jesus is not a rental;
it is your new permanent residence.

You are not a tenant; you are a child.

His heart is not a ticking time bomb;

His heart is the green pastures and still waters
of endless reassurances of His presence and comfort,
whatever our present spiritual accomplishments.

It is who He is.

~ Dane Ortlund

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 in The Lord's Prayer

**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,
forever. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Colossians 2:13-14 & Psalm 32:11

**M: Grace and peace to you who were dead in your sins,
for God has made you alive with Christ
and forgiven all your sins.
Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing all you who are now upright in heart!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
God the Father reigning o'er us,
Jesus bringing life to man.**

**Ever singing, by the Spirit,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward,
in the blessed song of life.**

Words by Henry van Dyke (1907).

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in Thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth Thou art,
dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

Words by Charles Wesley.

Music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard (1855)

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

Psalm 128

- 1 Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in His ways!
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.
- 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.
- 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.
- 5 The Lord bless you from Zion!
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
- 6 May you see your children's children!
Peace be upon Israel!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Almighty God, we confess our sin.

**We confess that we are both openly rebellious
and at times ignorant of our sin.**

**We confess that we wander
and in our pride invent our own ways.**

**Make us humble, teachable, patient;
quick to see our sin
and confess it to You and one another.**

**Jesus, thank You for willingly bearing our griefs
and carrying our sorrows.**

**Thank You for bringing us peace
through the punishment You bore.**

Holy Spirit, lead us to Christ.

**For we have an Advocate to calm our fears,
and a perfect Lamb who has died in our place.
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

John 3:16

... God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish
but have eternal life.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;

He is the Lord, our God.

We are not consumed by the flood;

upheld, protected, gathered up.

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

**In the dark of night, before the dawn,
my soul, be not afraid.**

For the promised morning, oh how long?

Oh God of Jacob be my strength.

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,

You are the faithful one.

And from the garden to the grave,

bind us together, bring shalom.

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

Words and music by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore.

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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Romans 3:9–31

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,
¹⁰ as it is written:

¹¹ "None is righteous, no, not one;
no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one."

¹³ "Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive."

¹⁴ "The venom of asps is under their lips."

¹⁵ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."

¹⁶ "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁷ in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁸ and the way of peace they have not known."

"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God

of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,³⁰ since God is one — who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

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

"But Now ..."

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

GIVING TO THE LORD

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above,
Not on things that are on earth.

Your Will Be Done

How in that garden He persisted,
I may never fully know.
The fearful weight of true obedience,
it was held by Him alone.
What wondrous faith to bear that cross!
To bear my sin, what wondrous love!
My hope was sure when there my Saviour prayed:
"Father, not my will, but Yours be done."

When I am lost, when I am broken,
in the night of fear and doubt,
still I will trust in my good Father.
Yes, to one great King I bow!
As Jesus rose, so I shall rise
in ransomed glory at the throne.
My heart restored with all Your saints, I sing:
"Father, not my will, but Yours be done."

As we go forth, our God and Father,
lead us daily in the fight.
That all the world might see Your glory
and Your Name be lifted high.
And in this Name we overcome,
for You shall see us safely home.
Now as Your church, we lift our voice and pray:
"Father, not my will, but Yours be done."

And in this Name we overcome,
for You shall see us safely home.
Now as Your church, we lift our voice and pray:
"Father, not my will, but Yours be done."
"Father, not my will, but Yours be done."
"Father, not my will, but Yours be done!"

Words and music by Rich Thompson & Jonny Robinson.
© CityAlight Music

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

from The Athanasian Creed

P: We believe and confess
that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and human, equally.
He is God from the essence of the Father
begotten before time
and He is human from the essence of His mother,
born in time ...

**... completely God, completely human
with a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity.
Although He is God and human
yet Christ is not two, but one.**

**He is one, however, not by His divinity
being turned into flesh,
but by God's taking humanity to Himself.
He is one, certainly not by the blending of His essence,
but by the unity of His person.
For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both God and human.**

**He suffered for our salvation;
He descended into hell;
He arose from the dead;
He ascended to heaven;
He is seated at the Father's right hand;
from there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

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

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

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to

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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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