



Ascension PCA

October 25, 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.

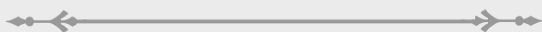
Clipboards for kids are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

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

"Abide in Him."

You did well to come; you do better to abide.
Who would, after seeking the King's palace,
be content to stand in the door,
when he is invited in to dwell in the King's presence,
and share with Him in all the glory of His royal life?
Oh, let us enter in and abide,
and enjoy to the full all the rich supply
His wondrous love hath prepared for us!

~ Andrew Murray

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

from Revelation 19:5–7 & Psalm 63:1

M: Praise our God, all you His servants,
you who fear Him, both small and great!

P: **Hallelujah! For our LORD God Almighty reigns!
Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory!**

**O God, You are our God; earnestly we seek You;
Our souls thirst for You; our flesh faints for You,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 113

**Praise Jehovah; praise the LORD;
Ye His servants, praise accord;
Bless-ed be Jehovah's name;
Evermore His praise proclaim,
evermore His praise proclaim.**

**From the dawn to setting sun,
praise the LORD, the Mighty One.
O'er all nations He is high;
Yea, His glory crowns the sky,
yea, His glory crowns the sky.**

**Who is like the LORD our God?
High in heav'n in His abode,
Who Himself doth humble low,
things in heav'n and earth to know,
things in heav'n and earth to know.**

Words from Trinity Psalter.

Music (Take My Life and Let it Be) by Henri A. César Malan

Oh, How Good It Is

**Oh, how good it is when the family of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruit of His presence here among us.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is on this journey we share,
to rejoice with the happy
and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
when we offer the blessing of belonging.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is to embrace His command
to prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one, we all share in the love
of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words and music by

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend

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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 129

- 1 "Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth" —
let Israel now say —
- 2 "Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,
yet they have not prevailed against me.
- 3 The plowers plowed upon my back;
they made long their furrows."
- 4 The LORD is righteous;
He has cut the cords of the wicked.
- 5 May all who hate Zion
be put to shame and turned backward!
- 6 Let them be like the grass on the housetops,
which withers before it grows up,
- 7 with which the reaper does not fill his hand
nor the binder of sheaves his arms,
- 8 nor do those who pass by say,
"The blessing of the LORD be upon you!
We bless you in the name of the LORD!"

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Wonderful Savior,

**We thank you for Your wondrous grace and love
in bearing our sin in Your body on the cross.
May Your cross be to us the tree
that sweetens every bitterness in our lives;
the rod that blossoms with hope and beauty;
the vine that connects us to you,
the only source of all our strength.**

**We have died with You, have risen with You,
and are even now seated with you in heavenly places.
And yet we find that sin continues to have power over us.
We struggle to fix our eyes on You, to abide in You
and instead follow the ways of the world.
We struggle to choose love for others over pleasing ourselves.
Forgive us, we pray.
Increase our joy in the cross of Christ,
and our wonder and admiration for all
that was accomplished there,
until our hearts melt and our self-worship gives way
to delight in our salvation.
We pray this in the name of our glorious Redeemer, 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

1 John 4:10

**This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us
and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

*To all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:*

In Jesus, you are accepted, you are forgiven, you are loved.

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

Psalms 31:1-8

**In You, O LORD, I take refuge;
ashamed let me not be.**

**Your righteousness eternal
express by saving me.**

**Incline Your ear to hear me;
with speed deliver me.**

**To me O be a strong rock,
A fort to rescue me.**

**You are my rock and fortress;
for Your sake lead and guide.
Free me from nets they've hidden;
my stronghold You abide.
I now commit my spirit
into Your outstretched hand.
I know You have redeemed me,
LORD God of truths that stand.**

Words from Psalm 31:1–8 as found in *Trinity Psalter*.

Music by Ernest W. Shurtleff (1887).

Text ©1994 Crown & Covenant Publications

Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

**And can it be that I should gain
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me?
*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**He left His Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite His grace.
Humbled Himself, so great His love,
and bled for all His chosen race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.
*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825).
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 3:27 – 4:25

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.

4:¹ What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸ blessed is the man against whom the LORD will not count his sin."

⁹ Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹² and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring — not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

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

Faith is the Way"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 111:1

Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suff'ring,
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
of the law; in Him we stand.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory;
grace unmeasured, love untold.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him.
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.**

**What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.
Christ in power resurrected,**

as we will be when He comes.

Words and music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker

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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

Jesus, I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,

Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;

into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my sickness into Thy health,

out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,

out of my sin and into Thyself,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,

Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;

into the glorious gain of Thy cross,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,

out of life's storms and into Thy calm,

out of distress into jubilant psalm,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,

Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;

into Thy blessed will to abide,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,

out of despair into raptures above,

upward forever on wings like a dove,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,

Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;

into the joy and light of Thy home,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

**Out of the depths of ruin untold,
into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

Words by William True Sleeper (1887). Music by Greg Thompson (2000).
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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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Scripture text from

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

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