



November 1, 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.

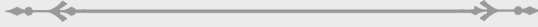
Clipboards for kids are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

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 mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great;
and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

That Word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever!

~Martin Luther

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 *(in unison)*

**P: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Triune God,
we praise You, we worship You, we adore You.**

**You hold the heavens in Your hand;
all stars rejoice in Your glory.**

**You come in the sunrise
and bless the splendor of the noonday.**

**The stars in their courses magnify You;
day and night tell of Your glory.**

**Your voice comes in the thunder of the storm;
the song of the wind whispers of Your majesty.**

**You satisfy all things living with Your abundance,
and our hearts bow at Your presence.**

**Accept us, we pray, for we are Your children,
adopted through Jesus.**

**Hear our prayers, receive our praise, glorify Yourself,
and build Your church. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

from 1 Kings 8:56-57

**M: Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel
just as He promised.**

**Not one word has failed of all the good promises
He gave through his servant Moses or any of His prophets.**

**P: May the LORD our God be with us
as He was with our fathers;
may He never leave us nor forsake us!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

**Come, Christians, join to sing
*Alleluia! Amen!***

**Loud praise to Christ our King;
*Alleluia! Amen!***

**Let all with heart and voice
before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice.
*Alleluia! Amen!***

**Come, lift your hearts on high,
*Alleluia! Amen!***

**Let praises fill the sky;
*Alleluia! Amen!***

**He is our guide and friend;
to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end.
*Alleluia! Amen!***

**Praise yet our Christ again,
*Alleluia! Amen!***

**Life shall not end the strain;
*Alleluia! Amen!***

**On heaven's blissful shore,
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
*"Alleluia! Amen!"***

Words by Christian H. Bateman (1843).

Traditional Spanish melody, arr. by David Evans (1927)..

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee

**Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee
for the bliss Thy love bestows;
for the pard'ning grace that saves me,
and the peace that from it flows.**

**Help, O God, my weak endeavor;
this dull soul to rapture raise:
Thou must light the flame, or never
can my love be warmed to praise.**

**Praise, my soul, the God that sought me,
wretched wand'rer far astray;
found me lost, and kindly brought me
from the paths of death away.**

**Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,
Him who saw my guilt-born fear;
and, the light of hope revealing,
bade the blood-stained cross appear.**

**Praise my Savior God that drew me
to that cross, new life to give;
held a blood-sealed pardon to me,
bade me look to Him and live.**

**Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,
roused me from my fatal ease;
praise the grace whose promise warmed me,
praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817).

Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).

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 130

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!
- 2 O LORD, hear my voice!
Let Your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- 3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O LORD, who could stand?
- 4 But with You there is forgiveness,
that You may be feared.
- 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in His word I hope;
- 6 my soul waits for the LORD

more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is plentiful redemption.

8 And He will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, in You we live and move and have our being.
Where could we go from Your presence?**

You know all things, nothing is hidden from Your sight.

**You know then that it is from the shadows of our sinfulness
that we look to You this morning.**

**O Lord, forgive our sins
and renew us in our relationship to You.**

**How we praise You for the light of the gospel
by which You have penetrated our dark world,
paid our awful debt of sin,
and brought us to Yourself.**

**Cause us to walk in the light as You are in the light,
that we might once again enjoy true fellowship
with You, our God, and with one another.**

In Jesus' name we pray. 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

Jeremiah 33:8 & Acts 10:43

M: "I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against Me,
and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against Me."

**P: To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone
who believes in [Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins
through His name.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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 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

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 Ministry of the Church"

Reverend David Ulloa

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

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

from 2 Timothy 1:9–10 & the Belgic Confession, Art. 35

**P: (He) saved us and called us to a holy calling,
not because of our works
but because of His own purpose and grace,**

**which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,
and which now has been manifested
through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,
who abolished death
and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.**

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper
to nourish and sustain those who are born again
and grafted into His family; His church.

Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread
as the sacrament of his body
and wine as the sacrament of His blood.

P: **Just as truly as we take and hold
the sacraments in our hands
and eat and drink them in our mouths,
by which our life is then sustained,
so truly we receive into our souls, for our spiritual life,
the true body and true blood of Christ,
our only Savior. We receive these by faith,
which is the hand and mouth of our souls.**

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

I Delight (Isaiah 61:10)

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**As a bridegroom adorns
his head like a priest,
As a bride adorns her head with jewels...**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**So I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**So I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

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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