Ascension PCA

November 22, 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

To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything
He has given us — and He has given us everything.
Every breath we draw is a gift of His love,
every moment of existence is a grace,
for it brings with it immense graces from Him.
Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted,
is never unresponsive,
is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise
of the goodness of God.
For the grateful person knows that God is good,
not by hearsay but by experience.
And that is what makes all the difference.

~ Thomas Merton

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 Psalm 84

M: How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
Our souls long, yes, faint
for the courts of the LORD;
our heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

WOMEN: Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at Your altars, O LORD of hosts,
our King and our God.
Blessed are those who dwell in Your house,
ever singing Your praise!

MEN: Blessed are those whose strength is in You,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
each one appears before God in Zion.

M: O LORD God of hosts, hear our prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!
Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of Your anointed!

ALL: For a day in Your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
We would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of our God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does He withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
O LORD of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in You!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see.
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826). Music by John B. Dykes (1861).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him!

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore ...

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him!

Words and music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)
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GOD CLEANSES 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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12–17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate
hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one
another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each
other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And
above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect
harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which
indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word
of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with
thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word
or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father through Him.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful God, we humble ourselves in Your presence,
confessing our sinfulness in Your sight.**

**We have broken Your holy law.
We have not sought first Your kingdom and righteousness.
We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have been anxious and troubled about many things.
We have failed to live consistent lives of humility and gratitude.
We have neglected and forgotten Your promises.**

**Most gracious God, our heavenly Father,
who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ,
to save Your people from their sins; forgive us.**

**Cleanse us from all unrighteousness,
and renew a right spirit within us:
through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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

Isaiah 53:4–6

Surely He has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed Him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was pierced for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned — every one — to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.

Brothers and Sisters, in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, Thank You

The myst'ry of the cross I cannot comprehend,
The agonies of Calvary.
You the perfect, Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me.

Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.
The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near;
Your enemy You've made Your friend.
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace,
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.

Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.
The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.

Your blood has washed away my sin;
Jesus, thank You.
The Father's wrath completely satisfied;
Jesus, thank You.
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table;
Jesus, thank You.

Words and music by Pat Sczebel
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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.

PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Psalms 111 & 112

1 Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
2 Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.
3 Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
and His righteousness endures forever.
4 He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
5 He provides food for those who fear Him;
He remembers His covenant forever.
6 He has shown His people the power of His works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
7 The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy;
8 they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
9 He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is His name!
10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!

1 Praise the LORD!
Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in His commandments!
2 His offspring will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
3 Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.
4 Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;
He is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
5 It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.
6 For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered forever.
7 He is not afraid of bad news;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.
8 His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.
9 He has distributed freely; He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever;
His horn is exalted in honor.
10 The wicked man sees it and is angry;
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;
the desire of the wicked will perish!

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

"Grateful Hearts, Steady Hearts" *Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Lamentations 3:22–23

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin.
There, forever purified,
in Thy presence to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

Words by Henry Alford (1844, 1867). Music by George J. Elvey (1859).
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

P: We proclaim that our Lord Jesus
was sent by the Father into the world,
that He took upon himself our flesh and blood
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.

We confess that He was condemned
to die that we might be pardoned,
and suffered death that we might live.

We proclaim that He is risen to make us right with God
and that He shall come again in the glory of His new creation.

This we do now, and until He comes again.

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

All Is Well

The sun beams on behind the clouds,
and in the dark still grace abounds.
All is well because of God's great love.
The road of disappointment runs
where unseen mercies wait for us,
and all is well because of God's great love.

How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.

He feels our weakness, knows our need,
and for our good He intercedes.
All is well because of God's great love.

Through ev'ry failure, ev'ry fear,
the Lord of comfort draws us near,
and all is well because of God's great love.

How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.

His coming soon will fill the sky,
and all that's wrong will be made right.
With newborn eyes we will behold
the glory of the risen Lord.
All will be well because of God's great love.
Yes, all is well because of God's great love.

Words and music by Steve Cook, Vikki Cook (2012).
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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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