Ascension PCA

November 29, 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

The true Christian religion is incarnational
and thus does not begin at the top, as all other religions do;
it begins at the bottom.

You must run directly to the manger and the mother's womb,
embrace the infant and virgin's child in your arms and look at Him —

born, being nursed, growing up, going about in human society,
teaching, dying, rising again, ascending above all the heavens,
and having authority over all things.

~ 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: The earth is the LORD's, for He made it:
P: Come, let us adore Him.

M: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness:
P: Come, let us adore Him.

M: The mercy of the LORD is everlasting:
P: Come, let us adore Him.

M: LORD God, open our lips.
P: And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

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

There is a Higher Throne

There is a higher throne
than all this world has known;
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.

Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace.
Salvation comes.

Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.

All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.

And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honor Him in perfect song
where we belong.

He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.

Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.

All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever ...

... Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.

All glory, wisdom, pow'r!
Strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.
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ADVENT SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jeremiah 33:14–16 & Luke 21:25–28

14 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the
promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those
days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for
David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely.
And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our
righteousness.'"

25 "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth
distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the
waves, 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming
on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 And then
they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great
glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and
raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

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.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Eternal and merciful God,
You have loved us with a love beyond understanding,
and You have set us on paths of righteousness
for Your name's sake.

Yet we have strayed from Your way;
we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
through what we have done and what we have left undone.

As we remember Your lavish gift of grace in Your Son Jesus,
we praise You and give You thanks that You forgive us.
Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin,
and to rise daily to new life in Christ,
who lives and reigns with You,
in Whose 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

John 3:16–17

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

SONG OF ASSURANCE
Light of the World

Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven,
brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky.
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness,
shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.

Light of the World, from the beginning
the tragedies of time were no match for Your love.
From great heights of glory, You saw my story.
God, You entered in and became one of us.

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.

Light of the world, crown in a manger,
born for the cross, to suffer, to save.
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer.
We are the richer by the price that He paid.

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.

Light of the World, soon will be coming.
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory,
and there He shall reign forevermore.

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.

Words & music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash
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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

Matthew 7:7–11

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock,
and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives,
and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be
opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give
him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?
11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things
to those who ask Him!"

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 Good Giver" *Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 88:11

The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours;
the world and all that is in it, You have founded them.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us;
how vast beyond all measure,
that He would give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss;
the Father turns His face away,
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross;
my guilt upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there,
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words & music by Stuart Townend (1995).

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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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

What Child is This

What Child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here,
the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high;
the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Traditional English carol, adapted by William C. Dix (ca. 1865).
Music: "Greensleeves", English Melody (16th century).
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.

BENEDICTION

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