"By not sparing his own well-beloved Son, God testified how much he cares for our salvation." John Calvin

"The union of love that joins believers with Jesus can never become a comfortable, exclusivistic huddle that only they can share. Doubtless it is a unique union, an extension of the union of the Godhead; but by its very nature, it is a union, an intimacy, which, by the necessity of its own constitution, seeks to bring others into its orb."

D. A. Carson



PUBLIC WORSHIP • MARCH 4, 2018



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:32-35

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord, to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

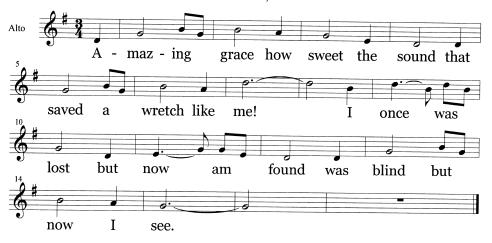
Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.

Blessed be God!

Amazing Grace

Text: John Newton • Music: American Melody • Public Domain



'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures; he will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 12:15a, 25a

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God... See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, we have loved other gods before you and have become their servants. We have not worshiped you in spirit and in truth. We have brought insult upon your reputation. We have not trusted you to give us rest. We have not honored others as they deserve. We have hated our neighbors. Our desires are all distorted and misplaced. We have taken for ourselves what did not belong to us. We have lied, slandered, and gossiped. We have coveted the good blessings you gave to others. O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have not kept your law. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 12:22-24

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

May the peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you!*

OFFERING • Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Exodus 33:7-11

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. ⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. ⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. ¹⁰ And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray...

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, and to offer our petitions to you in His name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of all generations, you formed your church from the despised of the earth and showed them mercy that they might proclaim salvation to all.

Strengthen those you have chosen that they may faithfully endure all trials by which you conform your church to the cross of Christ through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of comfort, you bear the pain of the world and stand with those who sorrow. Look with compassion on those who are troubled, cheer them by your word, and bring them healing as a sign of your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mighty God, whose word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose on earth through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Come, Holy Ghost

Text: Rhabanus Maurus (A.D. 776-856); chorus by Ray Mills (2005)

Music: Bruce Benedict & Ray Mills • ©2006 Cardiphonia Music, ©2006 Raymond G. Mills



O Holy Ghost, through thee alone know we the Father and the Son; be this our firm, unchanging creed, that thou dost from them both proceed, that thou dost from them both proceed.

(Chorus x2)

Praise we the Lord, Father and Son, and Holy Spirit with them one; and may the Son on us bestow all gifts that from the Spirit flow, all gifts that from the Spirit flow.

(Chorus x2)

Rock Of Ages

Text: Augustus M. Toplady • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

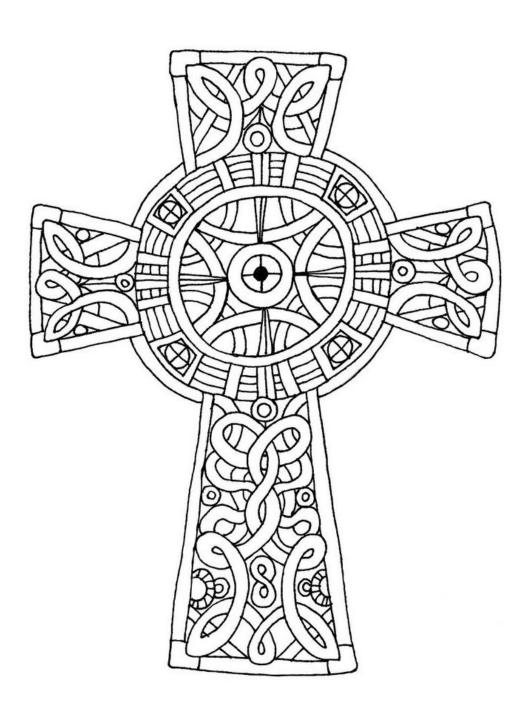
(Chorus)

GOSPEL READING • John 15:12-17

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ. *Praise be to you, O Christ!*

SERMON • "God's Friends" (Rev. Eric Costa)





CONFESSION OF FAITH • Philippians 2:6-11

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

I believe that Jesus Christ, being God, made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born a man. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE • Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

(Greet one another with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

THE MYSTERIUM FIDEI • 1 Corinthians 11:26; 5:7-8

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God's grace to live more faithfully for him in this world. Please come forward after the musicians. The glasses on your right contain grape juice for those who do not want wine. There are gluten-free crackers on the table. An Elder is available for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

Who Is Like The Lord, Our God? (Psalm 113)

Text: Wendell Kimbrough • Music: Bruce Benedict & Wendell Kimbrough • © 2013 Cardiphonia Music



Though equal to God in his glory, Christ Jesus became like a slave; he humbled himself in obedience to death, and the cross, and the grave. Victorious, he rose to the highest; in glory, the Savior was raised. His name above all names exalted; the heavens and earth sing his praise.

Who is like the Lord, our God? Who with glory fills the sky?

But humbles himself with the broken to dwell, who is like our God?

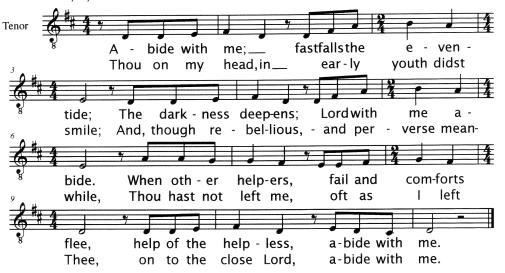
O saints, fix your eyes on the Savior and count all your righteousness loss. Be found in his love and his favor, and share in his death on the cross. That all of his power in vict'ry, imparted to you, may abound; and sharing the sufferings of Jesus, you share in his glory and crown.

Who is like the Lord, our God? Who with glory fills the sky?

But humbles himself with the broken to dwell, who is like our God?

Abide With Me

Text: Henry Lyte • Music: Justin Smith • ©2007 Justin Smith Music



I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness. Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory? I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies. Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee; In life and death, Lord, abide with me.

BENEDICTION • 1 Peter 1:1-2

To those who are chosen... according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: may grace and peace be multiplied to you.

~

Remember: every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christ-centered community and life of the church! For information about our regular meetings like home groups, bible studies for men and women, and more, please visit **ascensionpc.org/calendar**.

After Worship • Please stay a while and join us for coffee and conversation. Around 11:45am we start Sunday School—kids will meet in the sanctuary before going to their classes, and adults will meet in the fellowship hall for Sermon Discussion (young children are welcome to accompany their parents).

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (today) we participate together in some compassion and relief ministries. It's good for us to cultivate regular habits like these so that generosity and helping others become "second-nature" to us and to our children...

- <u>Alms</u> These gifts go toward a fund the deacons use to meet urgent needs among congregants and in the community as we are made aware of them. (If you need financial help, please let us know!)
- Food pantry The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, has many families
 who rely on help like this. To volunteer at the pantry, contact Jerilee Costa: jerilee.costa@gmail.com.

Informational Meeting • Sun., Mar. 11 after Worship... Join us for conversation led by our Elders and Deacons about various aspects of the ministry of our congregation. All are welcome, members are especially encouraged to attend.

Men's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., Apr. 27-29 in Oceanside... The cost will be \$80 for both nights, or \$40 for one night (meals included). Make checks payable to Ascension Presbyterian Church with "retreat" in the memo line, and give them to Tim Sery. There are only a few spots left, so **RSVP ASAP**.

Easter Choir • We're starting practice! Interested? Connect with John Elliott (john.a.elliott2@gmail.com).

Refreshments Volunteers • Bringing refreshments to share at church is a great way to practice hospitality. Ideally, each Sunday we have two volunteers: one bringing snacks for the children, the other bringing something for the adults. Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com)

Today: Elliott / _____ Next week: ____ / ____

Nursery Volunteers • Can you play with young children and help their parents once every 6-8 weeks? Join the nursery rotation! Contact: Rainy Aznoe (rainyrr@aol.com).

Today: Elliott Next week: Aznoe



Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro ascensionpc.org • facebook.com/ascensionpc • twitter.com/ascensionpc

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(Please fill out this contact card, tear it off, and drop it in the offering.)		
Name(s)	[] I am a visitor. [] I want to know more a [] I would like to get coff	

Email / Phone

[] Please send me the email newsletter.

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