



Ascension PCA

October 18, 2020

THE BOOK OF
Galatians



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.

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

*You have the words of life, where should we go
Except to You, to try and take them in?
We want Your words to quicken us, to know
And be transformed by knowledge deep within.
How is it then, these words seem dead in us?
We neither let them go nor let them live,
Their empty echoes always seem to haunt us,
As daily we refuse what they might give.*

*O Teacher, we need more than just the hearing,
More than these readings we have set apart,
Somehow the two-edged sword we have been fearing
Must pierce at last the well-defended heart.
Unsheathe it now and help us take the pain,
Pierce to the point where we can start again.*

~ Malcolm Guite

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!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Peter 1:3-5

M: Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In His great mercy He has given us
new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance
that can never perish, spoil or fade —
kept in heaven for you,
who through faith are shielded by God's power
until the coming of the salvation
that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

P: In this we greatly rejoice!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise Him, for He is
thy health and salvation!**

All ye who hear,

Now to His temple draw near;

Join me in glad adoration!

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,**

**Shelters thee under His wings, yea,
so gently sustaineth!**

Hast thou not seen

How thy desires e'er have been

Granted in what He ordaineth?

**Praise to the Lord, who with
marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health and with
loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief
Hath not He brought thee relief
Spreading His wings to o'er shade thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, O let all that
is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen
Sound from His people again,
Gladly fore'er we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863)
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 shall 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

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 2:1-19

Ruling Elder Chris Sledge

¹ The word of the LORD came to me, saying,
² "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem,
Thus says the LORD,
"I remember the devotion of your youth,
your love as a bride,
how you followed Me in the wilderness,
in a land not sown.
³ Israel was holy to the LORD,
the firstfruits of His harvest.
All who ate of it incurred guilt;
disaster came upon them,
declares the LORD."

...

⁴ Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. ⁵ Thus says the LORD:

“What wrong did your fathers find in Me
that they went far from Me,
and went after worthlessness,
and became worthless?

⁶ They did not say, ‘Where is the LORD
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that none passes through,
where no man dwells?’

⁷ And I brought you into a plentiful land
to enjoy its fruits and its good things.
But when you came in, you defiled My land
and made My heritage an abomination.

⁸ The priests did not say, ‘Where is the LORD?’
Those who handle the law did not know Me;
the shepherds transgressed against Me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal
and went after things that do not profit.

⁹ “Therefore I still contend with you,
declares the LORD,
and with your children’s children I will contend.

¹⁰ For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see,
or send to Kedar and examine with care;
see if there has been such a thing.

¹¹ Has a nation changed its gods,
even though they are no gods?
But My people have changed their glory
for that which does not profit.

¹² Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked, be utterly desolate,
declares the LORD,

¹³ for My people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken Me,
the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

14 "Is Israel a slave? Is he a homeborn servant?
Why then has he become a prey?
15 The lions have roared against him;
they have roared loudly.
They have made his land a waste;
his cities are in ruins, without inhabitant.
16 Moreover, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes
have shaved the crown of your head.
17 Have you not brought this upon yourself
by forsaking the LORD your God,
when He led you in the way?
18 And now what do you gain by going to Egypt
to drink the waters of the Nile?
Or what do you gain by going to Assyria
to drink the waters of the Euphrates?
19 Your evil will chastise you,
and your apostasy will reprove you.
Know and see that it is evil and bitter
for you to forsake the LORD your God;
the fear of Me is not in you,
declares the LORD GOD of hosts."

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.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from the prayer "Purification," Valley of Vision

P: Heavenly Father, we have sinned.

**Both consciously and unconsciously,
we have thought, spoken and done
what we should not have.**

**And we have not thought, spoken and done
what You have called us to do and be
as Your people.**

Forgive us, we pray.

Grant us the grace

**to never be content with ourselves,
to always grieve and turn from our sin,
to never think that we have "arrived."**

Give us the strength by Your Spirit

**to kill our pride and envy,
to command our tongues to speak words of life,
and to trample down our selfishness.**

**May we live for You and not for ourselves,
may we be transformed into Your likeness,
be set apart for Your service,
and live entirely for Your glory.**

In the name of Jesus we plead, Amen.

~ Please use this time for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Galatians 4:5,6

**M: But when the fullness of time had come,
God sent forth His Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.
And because you are sons, God has sent
the Spirit of His Son into our hearts,
crying "Abba! Father!"**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
And hung Him on that judgment tree.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the Holy Judge:
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer.
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness, my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook
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(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music [DC Cook]))

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 FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Galatians 1:1-5

¹ Paul, an apostle — not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead — ² and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

"Rescued"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Through the Precious Blood

**You have ordained every breath we take,
In pleasure or pain there is no mistake.
Gladness and grief, both are in Your hands,
And sufferings brief carry out Your plan.**

**And our fleeting sorrows
will yield an endless prize,
When some bright tomorrow
we'll see You with our eyes.**

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.***

**Father of lights, Giver of all grace,
Your mercies crown our lives all our days.
River of life quench our thirsty souls,
For no true delight does Your love withhold.**

**And in every season
we are satisfied,
For just one reason,
Christ was crucified.**

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.***

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.***

Words & music by Mark Altrogge
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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

Pastor Ed Volz

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.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MEDITATION

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707, 1709).
Gregorian Chant; arranged by Lowell Mason (1824)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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.**

BENEDICTION



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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:30AM: Worship Service
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Please make sure that checks are made out to
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.