



Ascension PCA

November 1, 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

*We are justified freely,
for Christ's sake,
by faith,
without the exertion of
our own strength,
gaining of merit,
or doing of works.
To the age-old question,
"What shall I do to be saved?"
the confessional answer is shocking:
"Nothing! Just be still;
shut up and listen for once in your life
to what God the Almighty,
creator and redeemer,
is saying to His world and to you
in the death and resurrection of His Son!
Listen and believe!"*

~ Gerhard O. Forde

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

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.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

**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 pow'r are great;
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.**

...

**If we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.**

**You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth, His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.**

**The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.**

**That Word above all earthly pow'rs,
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.**

Words and music by Martin Luther (1529); translated by Frederick H. Hedge (1853)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Great Is Our God

**Come let us praise Him,
Let us kneel at the throne of our God.
Through His Son our salvation was bought
With mercy and grace.**

**Come let us bow down,
In His hands are the depths of the earth.
With one voice we proclaim His great worth,
Lord our God!**

***And we will seek Him,
our Rock of Salvation.
Morning by morning
with thanksgiving we come.
And we will bow down,
with creation we cry out.
In daylight and darkness
we sing to the Lord.***

***Great is our God,
Great is our God,
Great is our God.***

**Lord of all nations,
We will stand at the end of our days
In Your courts and declare Your great ways,
In Spirit and Truth.**

**We long for Your kingdom,
Bring Your thunder and gather the earth.
All who tremble will tell of Your worth,
Lord our God!**

***And we will seek Him,
our Rock of Salvation.
Morning by morning
with thanksgiving we come.
And we will bow down,
with creation we cry out.
In daylight and darkness
we sing to the Lord.***

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***Great is our God,
Great is our God,
Great is our God.***

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 3:1-24

- ¹ "If a man divorces his wife
and she goes from him
and becomes another man's wife,
will he return to her?
Would not that land be greatly polluted?
You have played the whore with many lovers;
and would you return to Me?
declares the LORD.
- ² Lift up your eyes to the bare heights, and see!
Where have you not been ravished?
By the waysides you have sat awaiting lovers
like an Arab in the wilderness.
You have polluted the land
with your vile whoredom.
- ³ Therefore the showers have been withheld,
and the spring rain has not come;
yet you have the forehead of a whore;
you refuse to be ashamed.
- ⁴ Have you not just now called to Me,
'My father, You are the friend of my youth—
- ⁵ will He be angry forever,
will He be indignant to the end?'
Behold, you have spoken,
but you have done all the evil that you could."

⁶ The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah:
"Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel,
how she went up on every high hill and under every
green tree, and there played the whore? ⁷ And I thought,
'After she has done all this she will return to Me,'
but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah
saw it. ⁸ She saw that for all the adulteries of that
faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree
of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear,
but she too went and played the whore. ⁹ Because
she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land,
committing adultery with stone and tree. ¹⁰ Yet for all
this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me
with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares
the LORD."

¹¹ And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. ¹² Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say,

"Return, faithless Israel,
declares the LORD.
I will not look on you in anger,
for I am merciful,
declares the LORD;
I will not be angry forever.

¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt,
that you rebelled against the LORD your God
and scattered your favors among foreigners under
every green tree,
and that you have not obeyed My voice,
declares the LORD.

¹⁴ Return, O faithless children,
declares the LORD;
for I am your Master;
I will take you, one from a city and two from a family,
and I will bring you to Zion.

¹⁵ "And I will give you shepherds after My own heart,
who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

¹⁶ And when you have multiplied and been fruitful in
the land, in those days, declares the LORD, they shall
no more say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD."
It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed;
it shall not be made again. ¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem
shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations
shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in
Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow
their own evil heart. ¹⁸ In those days the house of Judah
shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall
come from the land of the north to the land that I gave
your fathers for a heritage.

¹⁹ "I said,
How I would set you among My sons,
and give you a pleasant land,
a heritage most beautiful of all nations.
And I thought you would call Me, My Father,
and would not turn from following me.

20 Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband,
so have you been treacherous to Me,
O house of Israel,
declares the LORD.”

21 A voice on the bare heights is heard,
the weeping and pleading of Israel’s sons
because they have perverted their way;
they have forgotten the LORD their God.

22 “Return, O faithless sons;
I will heal your faithlessness.”

“Behold, we come to You,
for You are the LORD our God.

23 Truly the hills are a delusion,
the orgies on the mountains.
Truly in the LORD our God
is the salvation of Israel.

24 “But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured
all for which our fathers labored, their flocks and their
herds, their sons and their daughters.”

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

**P: God Almighty, God of all grace,
we confess to You this morning
that too easily have we set our affections
on the things of this world
rather than loving You
with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

**We have freely sung the praises
of earthly pleasure and passing beauty
while remaining silent concerning
our knowledge of You.**

**Forgive our forgetfulness,
forgive our idolatry,
forgive our foolishness,
and renew our spirits.**

**Fill us again with the joy of Your salvation.
For Jesus' sake, Amen.**

~ Please use this time for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Proverbs 28:13, 1 Peter 1:3

**M: He who conceals his sins does not prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them
finds mercy.**

**P: Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy,
He has caused us to be born again
to a living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead...**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

**Alas, and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?**

**Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
So pure and undefiled,
To make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

**Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died,
For man, the creature's, sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
So pure and undefiled,
To make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

Words by Isaac Watts (1707); additional words and music by Bob Kauflin (1997)
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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Galatians 2:1-16

¹ Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

² I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

³ But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴ Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in — who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery — ⁵ to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. ⁶ And from those who seemed to be influential

(what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) — those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary,

when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸ (for He who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), ⁹ and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

¹⁰ Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

...

¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

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

"Gospel Courage"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

Words by Edward Mote (1834); music by John Stainer (1863).
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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MEDITATION

There Is a Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God,
Messiah, Holy one.**

***Thank you, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
The work on earth is done.***

**Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain.**

***Thank you, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
The work on earth is done.***

**When I stand in glory,
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever,
In that holy place.**

***Thank you, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
The work on earth is done.***

***Thank you, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
The work on earth is done.***

Words and music by Melody Green.

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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
(in-person & livestream)**

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Please make sure that checks are made out to
Ascension Presbyterian Church
and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.