



Ascension PCA

November 15, 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

*If there's anything in life
that we should be passionate about,
it's the gospel.*

*And I don't mean passionate only
about sharing it with others.*

*I mean passionate about
thinking about it,
dwelling on it,
rejoicing in it,
allowing it to color the way we look at the world.*

*Only one thing can be of first importance to each of us.
And only the gospel ought to be.*

~ C.J. Mahaney

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

Psalm 113:2-6

**P: Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!
The LORD is high above all nations,
and His glory above the heavens!
Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,
Who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.**

**He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin,
He sets the prisoners free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.**

**He speaks and list'ning to His voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.**

...

**My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1739)
Music by Carl G. Gläser (1828); arr. by Lowell Mason (1839)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice!**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered,
That the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

...

**With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting vict'ry from the grave
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 4:19–31

Chris Sledge, RE

- 19 My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain!
Oh the walls of my heart!
My heart is beating wildly;
I cannot keep silent,
for I hear the sound of the trumpet,
the alarm of war.
- 20 Crash follows hard on crash;
the whole land is laid waste.
Suddenly my tents are laid waste,
my curtains in a moment.
- 21 How long must I see the standard
and hear the sound of the trumpet?

...

- 22 “For My people are foolish;
they know Me not;
they are stupid children;
they have no understanding.
They are ‘wise’ — in doing evil!
But how to do good they know not.”
- 23 I looked on the earth, and behold,
it was without form and void;
and to the heavens, and they had no light.
- 24 I looked on the mountains, and behold,
they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.
- 25 I looked, and behold, there was no man,
and all the birds of the air had fled.
- 26 I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before His fierce anger.
- 27 For thus says the LORD, “The whole land shall be
a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.
- 28 “For this the earth shall mourn,
and the heavens above be dark;
for I have spoken; I have purposed;
I have not relented, nor will I turn back.”
- 29 At the noise of horseman and archer
every city takes to flight;
they enter thickets; they climb among rocks;
all the cities are forsaken,
And no man dwells in them.
- 30 And you, O desolate one,
what do you mean that you dress in scarlet,
that you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold,
that you enlarge your eyes with paint?
In vain you beautify yourself.
Your lovers despise you;
they seek your life.
- 31 For I heard a cry as of a woman in labor,
anguish as of one giving birth to her first child,
the cry of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath,
stretching out her hands,
“Woe is me! I am fainting before murderers.”

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: Almighty, eternal, most just and gracious God,
You are holy, yet my life and heart abound...
with apologies not made,
repentance not completed,
forgiveness not offered,
brothers not respected,
reputations not defended,
peace not pursued,
neighbors not loved,
appetites not restrained,
providences ignored,
envy unchecked,
prayers unspoken,
fears not conquered,
feet unmoved,
tongue unbridled,
eyes unguarded,
time, talents, treasure wasted.**

**Lord Jesus, deliver me from these chains,
by Your grace.**

**Give me perpetual broken heartedness,
keep me always clinging to Your cross,
flood me every moment with descending grace,
and I will praise You forever. 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 61:10

M: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest
with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

His Mercy is More

***Praise the Lord,
His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness,
New every morn,
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more!***

**What love could remember
no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing,
He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea
without bottom or shore;
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

**What patience would wait
as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender,
is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest,
the vilest, the poor.
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

...

***Praise the Lord,
His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness,
New every morn,
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness
He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment,
His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt
we could never afford.
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord,
His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness,
New every morn,
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa
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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 FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Galatians 3:1-14

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith — ⁶ just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” — ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

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

"Family Ties"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

My Redeemer

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,
How my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free.***

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (© 2005).

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

Isaiah 25:6-9

P: On this mountain the LORD of hosts

will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food,

a feast of well-aged wine,

of rich food full of marrow,

of aged wine well refined.

And He will swallow up on this mountain

the covering that is cast over all peoples,

the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death forever;

and the LORD GOD will wipe away tears

from all faces,

and the reproach of His people

He will take away from all the earth,

for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God;

we have waited for Him,

that He might save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;

let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please come forward to receive the elements at the table, then return to your seats. Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.

SONG OF MEDITATION

What Wondrous Love Is This

**What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

**When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great "I AM",
While millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!**

**And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!**

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

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.**

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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.