



Ascension PCA

January 24, 2021

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

*The bridge of grace will bear your weight...
Thousands of big sinners have gone across that bridge,
yea, tens of thousands have gone over it.
I can hear their trampings now
as they traverse the great arches
of the bridge of salvation.
They come by their thousands, by their myriads;
e'er since the day when Christ first entered into His glory,
they come,
and yet never a stone has sprung in that mighty bridge.
Some have been the chief of sinners,
and some have come at the very last of their days,
but the arch has never yielded beneath their weight.
I will go with them trusting to the same support;
it will bear me over as it has borne them..*

~ Charles Spurgeon

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 99:1-5

M: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth quake!
The LORD is great in Zion;
He is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise Your great and awesome name!

P: Holy is He!

M: The King in His might loves justice.
You have established equity;
You have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
Exalt the LORD our God;
worship at His footstool!

P: Holy is He!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 98

**O sing a new song to the LORD
For wonders He has done,
His right hand and His holy arm
The victory have won.**

**With harp make music to the LORD;
With harp a psalm O sing!
With horn and trumpet raise a shout
Before the LORD, the King.**

...

**Let seas in all their vastness roar,
The world its living horde.
Let rivers clap, let mountains sing
Their joy before the LORD!**

**Because He comes, He surely comes,
The judge of earth to be!
With justice He will judge the world,
All men with equity.**

Words from The Psalter

Music by Carl G. Gläser (1828); arr. by Lowell Mason (1839)

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Glorious Christ

**The radiance of the Father
Before the dawn of time;
You spoke and all creation came to be.**

**The molecules and planets
Reveal Your great design,
And every one was made
So we could see,
So we could see:**

***You are the glorious Christ,
The greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.***

***No greater sacrifice
Than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
Who praise You day and night,
Glorious Christ.***

**You left the air of heaven
To breathe the dust of earth,
And dwell among the outcast and the poor.
You came to be forsaken
And died to take our curse,
So You could be our joy forevermore,
forevermore.**

...

***You are the glorious Christ,
The greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.***

***No greater sacrifice
Than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
Who praise You day and night,
Glorious Christ.***

Words & music by Bob Kauffman
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OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 6:16–30

RE Brett Chase

- 16 Thus says the LORD:
“Stand by the roads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way is; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls.
But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’
- 17 I set watchmen over you, saying,
‘Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!’
But they said, ‘We will not pay attention.’
- 18 Therefore hear, O nations,
and know, O congregation,
what will happen to them.
- 19 Hear, O earth; behold,
I am bringing disaster upon this people,
the fruit of their devices,
because they have not paid attention to My words;
and as for My law, they have rejected it.
- 20 What use to Me is frankincense
that comes from Sheba,
or sweet cane from a distant land?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable,
nor your sacrifices pleasing to Me.

...

- 21 Therefore thus says the LORD:
‘Behold, I will lay before this people
stumbling blocks against which they shall stumble;
fathers and sons together,
neighbor and friend shall perish.’”
- 22 Thus says the LORD:
“Behold, a people is coming from the north country,
a great nation is stirring
from the farthest parts of the earth.
- 23 They lay hold on bow and javelin;
they are cruel and have no mercy;
the sound of them is like the roaring sea;
they ride on horses,
set in array as a man for battle,
against you, O daughter of Zion!”
- 24 We have heard the report of it;
our hands fall helpless;
anguish has taken hold of us,
pain as of a woman in labor.
- 25 Go not out into the field,
nor walk on the road,
for the enemy has a sword;
terror is on every side.
- 26 O daughter of my people, put on sackcloth,
and roll in ashes;
make mourning as for an only son,
most bitter lamentation,
for suddenly the destroyer
will come upon us.
- 27 “I have made you a tester of metals
among My people,
that you may know and test their ways.
- 28 They are all stubbornly rebellious,
going about with slanders;
they are bronze and iron;
all of them act corruptly.
- 29 The bellows blow fiercely;
the lead is consumed by the fire;
in vain the refining goes on,
for the wicked are not removed.
- 30 Rejected silver they are called,
for the LORD has rejected them.”

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: Mighty Father, we confess before You the deep-seated pride that leads us to parade our strength and goodness before others, while at the same time hiding and denying our weakness and sin. We boast about our hard work and our achievements, our intellectual prowess and our self-control, and even about our spiritual disciplines, as if any of these virtues come from ourselves. Forgive us, Lord.

Jesus, thank You that You love and are not ashamed to be called our Brother. You took on the weakness of a human body and entered our broken world in order to live the life that we could not live.

Holy Spirit, we cannot deliver ourselves from our sinful brokenness. Help us to look to Jesus for our righteousness and salvation — He alone is our hope and refuge.

Transform us, by Your mercy and grace, into thankful, humble, watchful children who are eager to serve You.

Rescue us each day from the pit of our own self-sufficiency.

May the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts be acceptable to You, our Rock and our Redeemer, in times of sorrow and times of peace, until the day when our faith becomes sight and our souls are made whole. 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

1 John 1:5-7

M: This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

How Firm a Foundation

**How firm a foundation,
You saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith
In His excellent Word!**

**What more can He say
Than to you He has said,
To you who for refuge
To Jesus have fled?**

**“When through the deep waters,
I call you to go;
The rivers of sorrow
Shall not overflow.**

**For I will be with you,
Your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you
Your deepest distress.”**

...

**“When through fiery trials
Your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient
Shall be your supply.**

**The flame shall not hurt you;
I only design
Your dross to consume,
And your gold to refine.”**

**“The soul that on Jesus
Has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not
Desert to his foes.**

**That soul, though all hell
Should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never,
No never forsake.”**

Words from *Rippon’s Selection of Hymns* (1787; alt.; mod.)
Traditional American melody; J. Funk’s *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music* (1832)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 4:8–20

⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

...

¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

¹² Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong.

¹³ You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, ¹⁴ and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷ They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. ¹⁸ It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, ¹⁹ my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰ I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

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

"More Than Ritual"

Rev. Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
For by my side the Saviour He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need His power is displayed.**

*To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me;
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won,
And I shall overcome.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

*To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

...

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
Until I stand with joy before the throne.**

***To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;
All the glory evermore to Him.***

***When the race is complete,
Still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

***When the race is complete,
Still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson
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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

**P: We proclaim that our Lord Jesus
was sent by the Father into the world,
that He took upon himself our flesh and blood,
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.
We confess that He was condemned to die
that we might be pardoned,
and suffered death that we might live.**

...

**We proclaim that He is risen
to make us right with God
and that He shall come again
in the glory of His new creation.
This we do now and until He comes again;
we remember His death,
we proclaim His resurrection,
we await His coming in glory.**

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.

PRAYER

SONG OF MEDITATION

Jesus, I Come

**Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.**

**Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.**

**Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.**

**Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.**

...

**Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.**

**Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.**

**Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.**

**Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.**

Words by William True Sleeper (1887); PUBLIC DOMAIN
Music by Greg Thompson (2000); ©2000 Greg Thompson Music

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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and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.