



Ascension PCA

January 31, 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

*When the devil throws our sins up to us
and declares that we deserve death and hell,
we ought to speak thus;
“I admit that I deserve death and hell. What of it?
Does this mean that I shall be sentenced to eternal damnation?
By no means. For I know One who suffered
and made satisfaction in my behalf.
His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
Where He is, there I shall be also.”*

~ Martin Luther

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

Daniel 2:20–22

M: Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to Whom belong wisdom and might.
He changes times and seasons;
He removes kings and sets up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;
He reveals deep and hidden things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with Him.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(in unison)

**P: Father, Lord of heaven
dwelling beyond all place and time,
Eternal and infinite You are,
beyond our grasp and control.
Blessed is Your name, O Father, our Father!
Jesus, You are the Lamb who is worthy,
The Lamb of God who takes away
the sin of the world.
You created all things by Your will,
And to You belongs all glory, honor and power.
Pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit,
that we might worship You in spirit and truth.
Pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit
that though we cannot see You,
we might know You in our hearts.
Pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit
that Your truth be indwelling,
a fountain of living water welling up
to eternal life.
To You be all praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Eternally one God. Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

O Worship the King

**O worship the King,
all glorious above,
And gratefully sing
His pow'r and His love;
Our Shield and Defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor,
and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might,
O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light,
Whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path
on the wings of the storm.**

**Frail children of dust,
and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust,
nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend!**

**O measureless might,
ineffable love!
While angels delight
to worship above.
Your mercies how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend!**

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till Thy inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740)
Music by Luke Morton (2012)
Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 7:1–20

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
² “Stand in the gate of the LORD’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD. ³ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. ⁴ Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’

...

⁵ “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, ⁶ if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, ⁷ then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.

⁸ “Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail.

⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’ — only to go on doing all these abominations? ¹¹ Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.

¹² Go now to My place that was in Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of My people Israel. ¹³ And now, because you have done all these things, declares the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, ¹⁴ therefore I will do to the house that is called by My name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. ¹⁵ And I will cast you out of My sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim.

¹⁶ “As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me, for I will not hear you. ¹⁷ Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? ¹⁸ The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven. And they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke Me to anger.

¹⁹ Is it I whom they provoke? declares the LORD. Is it not themselves, to their own shame? ²⁰ Therefore thus says the LORD GOD: Behold, My anger and My wrath will be poured out on this place, upon man and beast, upon the trees of the field and the fruit of the ground; it will burn and not be quenched.”

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 John 14:9 & Matthew 13:13–17

**P: Heavenly Father, have mercy on us.
We have seen Your Son, but our eyes are dim.
We have heard Him, but our ears are dull.
We have known Him, but our hearts are faint.
Comfort and pride blind us.
Lusts and fears deafen us.
Careless hearts deaden us.
So we hear, but we do not understand.
And we see, but we do not perceive.
Have mercy on us and heal us.
Give us eyes to see and ears to hear
the Christ, the Son of God.
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

Matthew 11:28–30

M: Jesus said: "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O Help My Unbelief

**How sad our state by nature is!
Our sin, how deep it stains!
And Satan binds our captive minds
Fast in his slavish chains.**

*But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,
Sounds from the sacred Word:
"O, ye despairing sinners come,
And trust upon the Lord."*

**My soul obeys th' almighty call,
And runs to this relief
I would believe Thy promise, Lord;
O help my unbelief!**

*To the dear fountain of Thy blood,
Incarnate God, I fly;
Here let me wash my spotted soul,
From crimes of deepest dye.*

**Stretch out Thine arm, victorious King,
My reigning sins subdue;
Drive the old dragon from his seat,
With all his hellish crew.**

*A guilty, weak, and helpless worm,
On Thy kind arms I fall;
Be Thou my strength and righteousness,
My Jesus, and my all.*

*But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,
Sounds from the sacred Word:
"O, ye despairing sinners come,
And trust upon the Lord."*

Words by Isaac Watts (1707-1709). Music by Justin Smith (2007)
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2007 Smith, Justin

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 4:21–31

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³ But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴ Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud,
you who are not in labor!

For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

²⁸ Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” ³¹ So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**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.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776); altered by Thomas Cotterill (1815)
Music by Thomas Hastings (1830)
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

Romans 3:21–25a, 5:1

P: But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the prophets bear witness to it —

the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned

and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 / MEDITATION

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.**



Song lyrics reproduced by permission: CCL#11181050

Scripture text from
The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.
©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®
Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Song lyrics reproduced by permission: CCL#11181050

Scripture text from
The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.
©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Holy Bible, **New International Version®**, NIV®
Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:30AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)

Meeting Address:

8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

APC Office:

Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)
(425) 286-8617

office@ascension-pca.org

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock *nate@ascension-pca.org*

ASSISTANT PASTOR:

Rev. Edward Volz *ed@ascension-pca.org*

PASTORAL INTERN:

Austin Clement *clement.austin@gmail.com*

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rina Kroes *office@ascension-pca.org*

ELDERS:

Brett Chase *brett@ascension-pca.org*

Bob Miller *bob@ascension-pca.org*

Bo Stocklin *bostocklin@ascension-pca.org*

Chris Sledge *chris@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

Philip Barrow *philip@ascension-pca.org*

Peter Contreras *peter@ascension-pca.org*

Fred Wilson *fred@ascension-pca.org*

Kyle Bartlett *kyle@ascension-pca.org*

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Leandra Howell *leandra.m.howell@gmail.com*

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge *cmkesledge@gmail.com*

MEAL COORDINATOR:

Sheila Bloedow *s.bloedow@comcast.net*

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Diane Miller *drsm40@gmail.com*

A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

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.