



Ascension PCA

February 14, 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

*Lo, God is here! Him day and night
united choirs of angels sing;
To Him, enthroned above all height,
heaven's host their noblest praises bring;
Disdain not, Lord, our meaner song,
who praise Thee with a stammering tongue.*

*Being of beings, may our praise
Thy courts with grateful fragrance fill!
Still may we stand before Thy face,
still hear and do Thy sovereign will;
To Thee may all our thoughts arise,
ceaseless, accepted sacrifice.*

~ Gerhard Tersteegen

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

Nehemiah 9:5b,6

M: Stand up and bless the LORD your God
from everlasting to everlasting.
Blessed be Your glorious name,
which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

P: **You are the LORD, You alone.
You have made the heaven,
the heaven of heavens,
with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them;
and You preserve all of them;
and the host of heaven worships You.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Blessed Be Your Name

**Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow,
Blessed be Your name.**

**And blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place;
Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be Your name.**

***Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise,
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say:***

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name!***

**Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's "all as it should be,"
Blessed be Your name.**

**And blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering;
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be Your name.**

***Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise,
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say:***

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name!***

**You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be Your name!**

**You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be Your name!**

***Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name!***

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
Hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
The Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting,
And silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice, like mountains
High soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains
Of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest,
To both great and small;
In all life Thou livest,
The true life of all.
We blossom and flourish
As leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish —
But naught changeth Thee.**

**Great Father of glory,
Pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee,
All veiling their sight.
All praise we would render,
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
Of light hideth Thee!**

Words by Walter Chalmers Smith (1867)
Traditional Welsh hymn melody
PUBLIC DOMAIN

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 8:1-17

¹ At that time, declares the LORD, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be brought out of their tombs. ² And they shall be spread before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and served, which they have gone after, and which they have sought and worshiped. And they shall not be gathered or buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. ³ Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, declares the LORD of hosts.

⁴ "You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD:
When men fall, do they not rise again?

If one turns away, does he not return?
⁵ Why then has this people turned away
in perpetual backsliding?

They hold fast to deceit;
they refuse to return.

⁶ I have paid attention and listened,
but they have not spoken rightly;
no man relents of his evil,
saying, 'What have I done?'

Everyone turns to his own course,
like a horse plunging headlong into battle.

⁷ Even the stork in the heavens
knows her times,

And the turtledove, swallow, and crane
keep the time of their coming,
but My people know not
the rules of the LORD.

⁸ "How can you say, 'We are wise,
and the law of the LORD is with us?'
But behold, the lying pen of the scribes
has made it into a lie.

⁹ The wise men shall be put to shame;
they shall be dismayed and taken;
behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD,
so what wisdom is in them?

- 10 Therefore I will give their wives to others
and their fields to conquerors,
because from the least to the greatest
everyone is greedy for unjust gain;
from prophet to priest,
everyone deals falsely.
- 11 They have healed the wound of My people lightly,
saying, 'Peace, peace,'
when there is no peace.
- 12 Were they ashamed when they committed
abomination?
No, they were not at all ashamed;
they did not know how to blush.
Therefore they shall fall among the fallen;
when I punish them, they shall be overthrown,
says the LORD.
- 13 When I would gather them, declares the LORD,
there are no grapes on the vine,
nor figs on the fig tree;
even the leaves are withered,
and what I gave them has passed away from
them."
- 14 Why do we sit still?
Gather together; let us go into the fortified cities
and perish there,
for the LORD our God has doomed us to perish
and has given us poisoned water to drink,
because we have sinned against the LORD.
- 15 We looked for peace, but no good came;
for a time of healing, but behold, terror.
- 16 "The snorting of their horses is heard from Dan;
at the sound of the neighing of their stallions
the whole land quakes.
They come and devour the land and all that fills it,
the city and those who dwell in it.
- 17 For behold, I am sending among you serpents,
adders that cannot be charmed,
and they shall bite you,"
declares the LORD.

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: Great and merciful God...

**Sin is my malady, my monster,
my foe, my viper,
born in my birth, alive in my life,
strong in my character,
following me as a shadow.**

**Yet Your compassions yearn over me,
Your heart hastens to my rescue,
Your love endured my curse,
Your mercy bore my justice.**

**Let me walk in humility,
bathed in Your blood,
in step with Your Spirit,
living in triumph as an heir of salvation
through Your blessed name. 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

John 1:12

M: But to all who did receive Him [Jesus],
who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become children of God.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Spirit of God

**The blessing of the Father,
Gift of grace and love,
The promise of the Savior,
For power from above.**

**Oh, wondrous gift that's given,
For confidence and mission;
Holy Spirit, You make all things new.**

***Spirit of God, breathe on me now;
Source of life, come, revive my weary heart.***

***Spirit of God, shine on me now.
Light of life, come, ignite my longing heart.***

**Come and lift the dark clouds,
Of doubt and unbelief;
Shine upon my soul now,
For by Your rays I see.**

**Clearer, closer, deeper
The love of my Redeemer;
Holy Spirit, You make all things new.**

***Spirit of God, breathe on me now;
Source of life, come, revive my weary heart.***

***Spirit of God, shine on me now.
Light of life, come, ignite my longing heart.***

...

**Where You breathe — hope thrives,
The dead return to life,
And the dark must flee the breaking day.
By Your light — I see
The glories of my King;
And beholding Him I will be changed.**

***Spirit of God, breathe on me now;
Source of life, come, revive my weary heart.
Spirit of God, shine on me now.
Light of life, come, ignite my longing heart.***

Words & music by Dave Fournier and George Romanacce
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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 5:16–26

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Breathe On Me, Breath Of God

**Breathe on me, Breath of God.
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love the way You love,
And do what You would do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until my will is one with Yours,
To do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with You the perfect life
For all eternity.**

Words by Edwin Hatch (1878)
Music by Robert Jackman (1889)
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

Rev. Nate Hitchcock

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

adapted from Valley of Vision, "Bounty"

**P: Our God rules all things in
wisdom, love and power.
He has made summer and winter,
day and night,
so that each of these revolutions
serves our welfare
and is full of His care and kindness.**

**But as the stars fade before the rising sun,
He has eclipsed all benefits
with the wisdom and grace
that purposed our eternal redemption.**

**By His great mercy, God laid our salvation
on His mighty and willing Son, our Savior;
One that is able to save to the uttermost.
His name is Jesus.**

**By His grace, His blood cleanses us from our sin.
God imputes to us His righteousness,
which justifies the guilty,
and gives us title to eternal life
and possession of the Holy Spirit.**

**By this Spirit of life-giving wisdom and power
we have faith to grasp God's promises,
rejoice in our hope,
turn from evil,
and live for the glory of our Savior.**

Praise be to our God! Amen.

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm (1923).

Music by William M. Runyan (1923)

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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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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

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.