



**Ascension** PCA

February 21, 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

*“Every time we look at the cross,  
Christ seems to say to us,*

*‘I am here because of you.*

*It is your sin I am bearing,  
your curse I am suffering,  
your debt I am paying,  
your death I am dying.’*

*Nothing in history or in the universe  
cuts us down to size like the cross.  
All of us have inflated views of ourselves,  
especially in self-righteousness,  
until we have visited a place called Calvary.  
It is there, at the foot of the cross,  
that we shrink to our true size.”*

*~ John Stott*

# 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

M: The earth is the LORD's, for He made it:

**P: Come, let us adore Him.**

M: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness:

**P: Come, let us adore Him.**

M: The mercy of the LORD is everlasting:

**P: Come, let us adore Him.**

M: LORD, open our lips,

**P: And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Come As You Are*

**Come out of sadness,  
From wherever you've been;  
Come, broken hearted,  
Let rescue begin;  
Come find your mercy,  
Oh sinner come kneel.  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal;  
Earth has no sorrow  
That Heaven can't heal.**

...

*So lay down your burdens,  
Lay down your shame;  
All who are broken,  
Lift up your face.*

*Oh wanderer come home,  
You're not too far.  
So lay down your hurt,  
Lay down your heart,  
Come as you are.*

**There's hope for the hopeless,  
And all those who've strayed;  
Come sit at the table,  
Come taste the grace.**

**There's rest for the weary,  
A rest that endures;  
Earth has no sorrow  
That Heaven can't cure.**

*So lay down your burdens,  
Lay down your shame;  
All who are broken,  
Lift up your face.*

*Oh wanderer come home,  
You're not too far.  
So lay down your hurt,  
Lay down your heart,  
Come as you are.*

*Come as you are,  
Fall in his arms,  
Come as you are.*

**There's joy for the morning,  
Oh sinner be still,  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal.  
Earth has no sorrow  
That Heaven can't heal.**

*So lay down your burdens,  
Lay down your shame;  
All who are broken,  
Lift up your face.*

***Oh wanderer come home,  
You're not too far.  
So lay down your hurt,  
Come as you are,  
Come as you are,  
Come as you are.***

Words and music by Ben Glover, David Crowder, Matt Maher  
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*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise Him, for He is  
thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear,  
Now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea,  
so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen  
How thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who with  
marvelous wisdom hath made thee,  
Decked thee with health and with  
loving hand guided and stayed thee.  
How oft in grief  
Hath not He brought thee relief  
Spreading His wings to o'er shade thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, O let all that  
is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him.  
Let the amen  
Sound from His people again,  
Gladly fore'er we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863)  
Music from *Stralsund Gesangbuch* (1665)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

# OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:9*

- 18 My joy is gone; grief is upon me;  
my heart is sick within me.
- 19 Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people  
From the length and breadth of the land:  
“Is the LORD not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?”  
“Why have they provoked me to anger  
with their carved images  
and with their foreign idols?”
- 20 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved.”
- 21 For the wound of the daughter of my people  
is my heart wounded;  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.
- 22 Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?  
Why then has the health of the daughter  
of my people  
not been restored?
- 1 Oh that my head were waters,  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of the daughter of my people!
- 2 Oh that I had in the desert  
a travelers’ lodging place,  
that I might leave my people  
and go away from them!  
For they are all adulterers,  
a company of treacherous men.
- 3 They bend their tongue like a bow;  
falsehood and not truth  
has grown strong in the land;  
for they proceed from evil to evil,  
and they do not know Me, declares the LORD.

...

4 Let everyone beware of his neighbor,  
and put no trust in any brother,  
for every brother is a deceiver,  
and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer.  
5 Everyone deceives his neighbor,  
and no one speaks the truth;  
they have taught their tongue to speak lies;  
they weary themselves committing iniquity.  
6 Heaping oppression upon oppression,  
and deceit upon deceit,  
they refuse to know Me, declares the LORD.  
7 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts:  
“Behold, I will refine them and test them,  
for what else can I do, because of My people?  
8 Their tongue is a deadly arrow;  
it speaks deceitfully;  
with his mouth each speaks peace to his neighbor,  
but in his heart he plans an ambush for him.  
9 Shall I not punish them for these things?  
declares the LORD,  
and shall I not avenge Myself  
on a nation such as this?”

## 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: Merciful God, we have sinned against You  
times without number,  
been guilty of pride and unbelief,  
of neglect to seek You in our daily lives.**

**Our sins and shortcomings  
present us with a list of accusations,  
but we thank You that they  
will not stand against us,  
for all have been laid on Christ.**

**Deliver us from every evil habit,  
every interest of former sins,  
everything that dims the brightness  
of Your grace in us,  
and everything that prevents us  
from taking delight in You.**

**Through Jesus we pray, 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

*Romans 5:1*

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



# SONG OF ASSURANCE

## *In Christ Alone*

**In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine —  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry, to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'Till He returns, or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

# 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 5:18–26*

<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

### 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

*“Character Matters”*

*Rev. Nate Hitchcock*



# PRAYER

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*O Great God*

**O great God of highest heav'n,  
Occupy my lowly heart.  
Own it all and reign supreme,  
Conquer every rebel pow'r.**

**Let no vice or sin remain  
That resists Your holy war.  
You have loved and purchased me,  
Make me Yours forevermore.**

**I was blinded by my sin,  
Had no ears to hear Your voice,  
Did not know Your love within,  
Had no taste for heaven's joys.  
Then your Spirit gave me life,  
Opened up Your Word to me  
Through the gospel of Your Son,  
Gave me endless hope and peace.**

**Help me now to live a life  
That's dependent on Your grace.  
Keep my heart and guard my soul  
From the evils that I face.**

**You are worthy to be praised  
With my every thought and deed.  
O great God of highest heav'n,  
Glorify Your name through me.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin.

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration".

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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

### CONFESSING OUR FAITH

*adapted from The 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.*

## 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.**

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## **ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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