



Ascension PCA

March 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

If today you feel that sin is hateful to you,
believe in Him who has said, "It is finished."
Let me link your hand in mine.
Let us come together, both of us, and say,
"Here are two poor naked souls, good Lord;
we cannot clothe ourselves,"
and He will give us a robe, for "it is finished." ...
"But must we not add tears to it?"
"No," says He, "no, it is finished, there is enough."

~ Charles Haddon 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

based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

M: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**P: The LORD is the stronghold of our lives.
We desire to live in God's house
and to seek God in His holy temple.
We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and make music to the LORD.**

M: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**P: Teach us Your ways
and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

**Out of the depths I cry to You,
In darkest places I will call,
Incline Your ear to me anew,
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,
How could I come before Your throne?
Yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

...

***I will wait for You,
I will wait for You,
On Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.***

**So put Your hope in God alone,
Take courage in His power to save,
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave.**

***I will wait for You,
I will wait for You,
On Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.***

**Now He has come to make a way,
And God Himself has paid the price,
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice.**

***I will wait for You,
I will wait for You
Through the storm
and through the night.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You,
For Your love is my delight.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend
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Townend Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

Lord, for Your Glory

**Lord, for Your glory
We sing Your praises,
We magnify Your holy name.
All for Your glory,
Lord, we bring blessing.
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

***We lift our hands,
We lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts,
We live our lives for You,
We offer all we are for the glory of You.***

**Almighty Father,
We are Your children.
You have been faithful to Your own.
Lord, for Your glory,
We have been chosen.
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands,
We lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts,
We live our lives for You,
We offer all we are,
We offer all we have,
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann & Grant Cunningham (1998)
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OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 11:1–23

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

² “Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ³ You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Cursed be the man who does not hear the words of this covenant

⁴ that I commanded your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Listen to My voice, and do all that I command you. So shall you be My people, and I will be your God,

⁵ that I may confirm the oath that I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day.” Then I answered, “So be it, LORD.”

⁶ And the LORD said to me, “Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and do them. ⁷ For I solemnly warned your fathers when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying, Obey My voice. ⁸ Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart. Therefore I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not.”

⁹ Again the LORD said to me, “A conspiracy exists among the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁰ They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear My words. They have gone after other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant that I made with their fathers. ¹¹ Therefore, thus says

the LORD, Behold, I am bringing disaster upon them that they cannot escape. Though they cry to Me, I will not listen to them. ¹² Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry to the gods

to whom they make offerings, but they cannot save them in the time of their trouble. ¹³ For your gods have become as many as your cities, O Judah, and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to shame, altars to make offerings to Baal.

¹⁴ "Therefore do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to Me in the time of their trouble. ¹⁵ What right has My beloved in My house, when she has done many vile deeds? Can even sacrificial flesh avert your doom? Can you then exult? ¹⁶ The LORD once called you 'a green olive tree, beautiful with good fruit.' But with the roar of a great tempest He will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed. ¹⁷ The LORD of hosts, who planted you, has decreed disaster against you, because of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done, provoking Me to anger by making offerings to Baal."

¹⁸ The LORD made it known to me and I knew;
then you showed me their deeds.

¹⁹ But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

I did not know it was against me
they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
that his name be remembered no more."

²⁰ But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously,
Who tests the heart and the mind,
let me see Your vengeance upon them,
for to You have I committed my cause.

²¹ Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of Anathoth, who seek your life, and say, "Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, or you will die by our hand" — ²² therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, I will punish them. The young men shall die by the sword, their sons and their daughters shall die by famine, ²³ and none of them shall be left. For I will bring disaster upon the men of Anathoth, the year of their punishment."

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

Psalm 79:8–9

**P: Do not remember against us our former iniquities;
let Your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low.**

**Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of Your name;
deliver us, and atone for our sins,
for Your name's sake!**

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

Hebrews 12:1–2

M: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Blessed Assurance

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

***This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.***

**Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

***This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.***

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

***This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.***

Words by Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915). Music by Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1909)
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 6:11–18

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷ From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

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

“BOAST IN THE CROSS!”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707, 1709).
Gregorian Chant; arranged by Lowell Mason (1824)
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

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

adapted from Philippians 2

M: What encouragement do you have
from being united with Christ?
What comfort from His love
and what fellowship with His Spirit?
What tenderness and compassion
have you known from Him?

**P: That Christ, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be grasped,
but made Himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled himself
and became obedient to death —
even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted Him
to the highest place
and gave Him the name
that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

**Alas, and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?**

**Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
So pure and undefiled,
To make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

**Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died,
For man, the creature's, sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
So pure and undefiled,
To make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

Words by Isaac Watts (1707); additional words and music by Bob Kauflin (1997)
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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

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