



PSALM 23



June 21, 2020

FOR THE CHURCH, WORSHIP IS LIKE BREATHING

Jean-Jacques von Allmen, a 20th century liturgical theologian, presents the image of worship as the beating heart of the Church.

"The life of the Church pulsates like the heart by systole and diastole. As the heart is for the animal body, so [worship] is for the church life a pump which sends into circulation and draws it in again, it claims and it sanctifies. It is from the life of worship ... that the Church spreads itself abroad into the world to mingle with it like leaven in the dough, to give it savour like salt, to irradiate it like light, and it is toward [worship]—toward the Eucharist—that the Church returns from the world, like a fisherman gathering up his nets or a farmer harvesting his grain."

Words like *systole* and *diastole* aren't the most commonly used terms in and around the church. They're important to know, though. Both terms define the two movements of a beating heart – systole being the phase of the heartbeat when the heart muscle contracts, pumping blood from the chambers into the arteries and diastole being the phase of the heartbeat when the heart muscle relaxes, allowing the chambers to fill with blood. It's clear that you can't have one happening without the other and expect to live, and it's no different for the Church. She needs this heart to be oriented to God in the diastole and to the world in systole.

You see, worship is at the heart of what the Church is and does. It's the defining movement that sets the tone for all the Church's life. And prayer is the very heart of that worship. It's a two-way, back and forth communication by which love flows between God's people and their Maker – the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth, their only help. Let's make every effort to claim all that God intended for us in prayer and worship today (and every day) – not to get the activity prayer/worship, itself, but to get God, Himself, saying, "God, Your name, Your kingdom, Your will be exalted, not my will, not my kingdom, not my name." It's the chief means by which we maintain and grow our relationship with God and to partner with God in his ministry of reconciliation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORSHIP

Thank you for participating this morning. Though we are separated physically, we remain united in Christ, and we can experience that spiritual unity through our participation in unified liturgy, prayer, Scripture reading, and singing. Our heartfelt desire is that our worship would also be an expression of the unity and common purpose of the church, which Jesus prayed would reflect the unity between Himself and God. (John 17:20-21)

- **Select a leader(s)** who will read the “Leader” parts. Everyone else in the gathering should read the “All” parts.
- **We’ve changed the format** of our videos beginning this week, as we prepare to better equip you for more gatherings as Redemption Communities during Phase 2 lifting some restrictions, whenever that time comes. The songs and sermon will now be available via one link.

PRAYER & SUPPORT

Our 30-Day Prayer Guide is available at redemptionaz.com/prayer

Pray with our church: We are earnestly seeking the Lord with our next steps as a church, being intentional to slow down, watch, and pray for what He would be speaking to us. Please join us in that posture.

Pray for our church: We are also seeking the Lord for wisdom in terms of how and when we might re-gather as a congregation. [Redemption has laid out a plan](#), but each congregation will execute it in a way that works for their context.

If you need anything, please reach out to us. We desire to care for any physical, emotional, spiritual, or economic needs of our church family that may have arisen from COVID-19. Go to redaz.in/peo_covid19. Would you like to be a part of helping those in need? Use the same link and let us know.

WORSHIP & THE WORD

[CLICK HERE](#) for this Sunday's service.

FAMILY RESOURCES

[CLICK HERE](#) for this week's Parent Pack

[CLICK HERE](#) for this week's coloring page

GIVING

Remember that you can continue to give. One tangible way to express our dependence on the Lord is to give, even in a season of heightened financial distress and anxiety. We can trust that He will provide for our every need, and our generosity is needed now more than ever with the many opportunities to serve our neighbors during this time. Please [CLICK THIS LINK](#) below to give online.

If you would like to mail a check, please make checks out to "Redemption Church" with "Redemption Peoria" written clearly in the memo line. Then mail checks to:

REDEMPTION CHURCH: 1820 WEST ELLIOT RD. GILBERT, AZ 85233

BENEDICTION

A blessing for the road from Romans 15:5-6.

LEADER: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Peace be with you!
And also with you!



peoria.redemptionaz.com