

1-1-2007

Him We Proclaim: A Litany on Christ From Colossians

Lee Magness
jlmagness@milligan.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven>



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Magness, Lee (2007) "Him We Proclaim: A Litany on Christ From Colossians," *Leaven*: Vol. 15: Iss. 2, Article 11.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven/vol15/iss2/11>

This Liturgical Readings is brought to you for free and open access by the Religion at Pepperdine Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Leaven by an authorized editor of Pepperdine Digital Commons. For more information, please contact bailey.berry@pepperdine.edu.

Him We Proclaim: A Litany on Christ from Colossians

LEE MAGNUS

This liturgical reading, drawn entirely from Paul's letter to the Colossians and incorporating almost the entire letter, may be used in whole or in parts in a service of worship. The reading is configured for four voices but may be reconfigured according to its use in worship.

PRAISE: A PRAYER OF THANKS FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN CHRIST (1.3–14)

1 ³We thank God,
All the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
1 praying for you always,
2 ⁴having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus
3 and the love that you have for all the saints,
4 ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven
which you heard before in the word of the truth,
All the gospel,
2 ⁶which has come to you,
All as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—
3 as it also does among you, since the day you heard and understood
All the grace of God in truth,

1 ⁹And so, from the day we heard, we continue to pray for you,
2 asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will
3 in all wisdom and spiritual insight,
All ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,
2 fully pleasing to him,
3 bearing fruit in every good work
4 and increasing in the knowledge of God.
1 ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power,
2 according to his glorious might,
3 for all endurance and longsuffering,
4 ¹²giving thanks with joy to the Father,
1 who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
2,3 ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
All and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
4 ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: A PROCLAMATION OF THE PERSON OF CHRIST—PART 1 (1.15–23)

1 ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God,
 All the firstborn of all creation.
 2 ¹⁶For by him all things were created,
 3 in heaven and on earth,
 4 visible and invisible,
 1 whether thrones
 2 or dominions
 3 or rulers
 4 or authorities—
 All all things were created through him and for him.

1 ¹⁷And he is before all things,
 All and in him all things hold together.

1 ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church.
 2 He is the beginning,
 3 the firstborn from the dead,
 4 that in everything he might be preeminent.

All ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
 2 ²⁰and through him to reconcile all things to himself,
 3 making peace by the blood of his cross,
 4 whether on earth or in heaven.

1 ²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,
 2 ²²he has now reconciled in the body of his flesh by his death,
 1 in order to present you
 2 holy
 3 and blameless
 4 and above reproach before him,
 1 ²³if indeed you continue in the faith,
 2 stable and steadfast,
 3 and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,
 All which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven.

COMMITMENT: AN AFFIRMATION OF OUR MINISTRY IN CHRIST (1.25–28, 2.2–4)

1 ²⁵I became a minister according to the stewardship of God
 2 that was given to me for you,
 All to make the word of God fully known,
 3 ²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations
 4 but now revealed to his saints.
 1 ²⁷To them God willed to make known
 2 among the Gentiles
 3 the riches of the glory of this mystery,

All which is Christ in you,
 4 the hope of glory.
 All ²⁸HIM WE PROCLAIM,
 1 warning everyone
 2 and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
 3,4 that we may present everyone mature in Christ.
 1 We struggle on
 2 ²that their hearts may be encouraged,
 3 being knit together in love,
 4 toward all the riches of full assurance of understanding
 All and the knowledge of the mystery of God, which is Christ,
 4 ³in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

EXHORTATION: ADMONITIONS FOR OUR LIFE IN CHRIST (2.6–8, 16–23; 3.1–17)

1 ⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,
 All so walk in him,
 2 ⁷rooted and built up in him
 3 and established in the faith, just as you were taught,
 4 abounding in thanksgiving.

2 ⁸Beware that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit,
 3 according to human tradition,
 4 according to the elemental spirits of the world,
 All and not according to Christ.

1 ¹⁶Therefore
 All let no one pass judgment on you
 2 in matters of food and drink,
 3 or as to a festival or new moon or Sabbath.
 4 ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come,
 All but the substance is of Christ.

1 ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you,
 2 insisting on abstinence and worship of angels,
 3 going on about what he has seen,
 4 puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,
 All ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head,
 1 from whom the whole body,
 2 nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments,
 3 grows with a growth from God.

1 ²⁰⁻²¹Since with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world,
 All don't submit to regulations—
 2 "Don't handle,
 3 Don't taste,
 4 Don't touch"

1 as if you were still alive in the world.
 4 ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom
 1 in promoting self-willed religion
 2 and abstinence
 3 and severity to the body,
 4 but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

1 ¹If then you have been raised with Christ,
 All seek the things above,
 2 where Christ is,
 3 seated at the right hand of God.

All ²Think on things above,
 4 not on things on the earth.
 1 ³For you have died,
 2 and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
 3 ⁴When Christ who is your life appears,
 4 then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 ⁵Put to death therefore your earthly aspects:
 2 sexual immorality,
 3 impurity,
 4 passion,
 2 evil desire,
 3 and covetousness, which is idolatry.
 4 ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

1 ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.
 All ⁸But now you must put them all away:
 2 anger,
 3 wrath,
 4 malice,
 2 slander,
 3 and shameful talk from your mouth.

All ⁹Do not lie to one another,
 1 since you have put off the old self with its practices
 2 ¹⁰and have put on the new self,
 3 which is being renewed in knowledge
 4 according to the image of its creator.

1 ¹¹Here there is no Greek and Jew,
 2 circumcised and uncircumcised,
 3 barbarian, Scythian,
 4 slave, free;
 All but Christ is all, and in all.

1 ¹²Put on then, as the chosen ones of God, holy and beloved,
 2 compassion,

3 kindness,
 4 humility,
 1 gentleness,
 2 and longsuffering,
 3 ¹³bearing with one another
 4 and forgiving each other;
 1 as the Lord has forgiven you,
 All so you also must forgive.

1 ¹⁴And above all these
 All put on love,
 2 which is the bond of complete maturity.
 3 ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
 4 to which indeed you were called in one body.
 All And be thankful.

1 ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
 2 teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
 3 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
 4 with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1 ¹⁷And whatever you do,
 2 in word or in deed,
 All do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
 3 giving thanks to God the Father through him.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: A PROCLAMATION OF THE PERSON OF CHRIST—PART 2 (2.9–15)

1 ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
 2 ¹⁰and you have been filled in him,
 3 who is the head of all rule and authority.
 4 ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands,
 1 by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,
 2 ¹²having been buried with him in baptism,
 3 in which you were also raised with him
 All through faith in the working of God,
 4 who raised him from the dead.
 1 ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses
 2 and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
 All God made you alive together with him,
 3 having forgiven us all our trespasses,
 4 ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt against us with its legal demands.
 1 This he set aside,
 All having nailed it to the cross.
 2 ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities
 3 and put them to open shame,
 4 by triumphing over them in him.

EXHORTATION: CLOSING ADMONITIONS FOR OUR LIFE IN CHRIST (4.2-6)

- 1 ²Continue steadfastly in prayer,
- 2 being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
- 3 ³At the same time, pray also for us,
- 4 that God may open to us a door for the word,
- All to speak the mystery of Christ.
- 1 ⁵Walk wisely toward outsiders,
- 2 making the best use of the time.
- 3 ⁶Let your speech always be gracious,
- 4 seasoned with salt,
 so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- 1 ¹⁸*Grace* be with you.
- 2 *Grace be* with you.
- 3 *Grace be with* you.
- 4 *Grace be with you.*
- All *Grace be with you all.*

LEE MAGNUS TEACHES NEW TESTAMENT AT MILLIGAN COLLEGE IN JOHNSON CITY, TN.

