



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

May 17, 2015 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Ascension of the Lord

## GATHERING

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty  
and girded with strength.

**His throne is established from of old;**

**He is from everlasting.**

O clap your hands, all peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the LORD Most High is awesome,  
a great King over all the earth.**

**He sits on His holy throne.**

God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;**

**Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

– from Psalms 47 and 93



Ascension of the Lord, Raj Solomon, Batik, Contemporary



*Rejoice the Lord is King*

Rejoice the Lord is King; Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love.  
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heav'n.  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!  
The Lord is King! (4x)

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Original text: Charles Wesley, 1744; original tune: John Darwall, 1770.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

*A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing*

A hymn of glory let us sing;  
New songs throughout the world shall ring.  
Christ, by a road before untrod  
Ascendeth to the throne of God.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
All praise to Thee let earth accord.  
Who art, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit One.



O grant us thitherward to tend,  
And with unwearied hearts ascend,  
Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou  
As is our faith, art seated now.

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735),  
*Hymnum canamus Domino*; translated from  
Latin to English by Benjamin Webb, 1854.  
Hymn tune: JAM LUCIS ORTO SIDERE, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.  
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who  
has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places  
in Christ:

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would  
be holy and blameless before Him;

*In love, He predestined us to adoption as His children, in accordance  
with His pleasure and His will;*

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our  
sins, according to His grace;

*He has made known to us the mystery of His will, to bring all things in  
heaven and on earth into unity in Christ;*

Having believed in Him, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of  
promise, the guarantee of our inheritance in Him, to the praise of  
His glory.

*In the exceeding greatness of His power, He raised Christ from the  
dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,  
far above all principality and power and might and dominion,  
and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in  
the age to come.*

**He has put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as  
head over all things to the church, which is His body, the  
fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

– from Ephesians 1:3-23



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

God demonstrated His own love for us in this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

*Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace,*

*that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

– Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16

**Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from death to life, and have seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places that He might fill all things. Yet, we confess that we have not always bowed before Him, and have not always acknowledged His rule. We have not always followed His leading, and have failed to glorify Him in our lives. Forgive us, and raise us from sin that we may be Your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is the head of the church, His body. Amen.**

[Silence]

*Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)*

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,

The Holy One, our heav'nly King.

We worship You, we give You thanks,

We praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High,

The Holy One, our heav'nly King.

We worship You, we give You thanks,

We praise You for Your glory.

Almighty God and Father. Amen.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.

Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis (“*Glory to God in the highest*”)



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of our pardon in His grace:

*God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, even when we were dead in our sins and transgressions, made us alive together with Christ –*

**By grace we have been saved –**

And He raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

*So that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

**Thanks be to God!**

– Ephesians 2:4-7

## TIME OF OFFERING

**Lord God, heavenly King, we offer these our gifts as a sign of love, devotion, and worship. Through these, just as through our praises, we acknowledge that You are our sovereign and covenant Lord.**

*Be Unto Your Name*

We are a moment, You are forever,  
Lord of the ages, God before time.  
We are a vapor, You are eternal,  
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

*Chorus*

Holy, holy, Lord God, Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.  
Highest praises, honor and glory  
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the healer,  
Jesus Redeemer, mighty to save.  
You are the love song we'll sing forever,  
Bowing before You, blessing Your name.

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## THE WORD

Acts 1:1-11

Luke 24:44-53

Matthew 28:16-20



## THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*The Lord's Prayer* (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heav'n.  
Provide each day our daily needs;  
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;  
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;  
And Thine is the glory, now and forever,  
Amen, amen, amen.

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*Before the Throne of God Above*

Before the Throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose Name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands; my name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in Heav'n He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart. (2x)



When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there, Who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died my sinful soul is counted free;  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me. (2x)

Before Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace:  
One with Himself I cannot die; my soul is purchased by His Blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ my Savior and my God. (2x)

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2014. Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Gaelic hymn tune

### *Revelation Song*

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; holy, holy is He.  
Sing a new song to Him who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

#### *Chorus*

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;  
You are my ev'rything, and I will adore You.

#### *Verse 2*

Clothed in rainbows of living color,  
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power  
Be to You, the only wise King.

#### *Verse 3*

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, at the mention of Your name;  
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,  
Such a marv'lous mystery.

CCLI Song #4447960; ©2004 Gateway Create Publishing; Jennie Lee Riddle

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



*Rejoice, the Lord is King (reprise, verse 4)*

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come  
And take His servants up to their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!  
The Lord is King! (4x)

Benediction:

Jesus Christ, this man who is God, participated in our humanity to die for us and to be resurrected for us, and He now has ascended to the very throne of God to continually represent us to the Father.

**Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.**

We have a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven;

**And who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.**

He who did everything that ever needed to be done to save us now continually stands before the Father interceding for us!

**Thanks be to God: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Adapted from Hebrews 7 and 8, and Robert Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004)

*A thought about worship...*— “The early church fathers saw the ascension of the Lord as the lifting up of the human nature of Jesus to the throne of God. The eternal Word was united to a perfect human nature in Jesus. Because Jesus participated in our human nature (without sin) and because through faith we are united with Jesus, our human but redeemed nature, united with Jesus, is lifted to the very throne of God. Leo the Great, an early church father, puts this profound truth this way: ‘For on this day not only have we been confirmed in our possession of paradise, but we have entered heaven in the person of Christ; through his ineffable grace we have regained far more than we had lost through the devil’s hatred.’” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 159.)

**Lectionary for next week:** Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;  
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; John 16:4b-15

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113

Sunday mornings at The Carmichael Chapel, 4600 Winding Way  
(Corner of Winding Way and Pasadena), Sacramento, CA 95841.

Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.

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