



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

September 6, 2015 (Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

He made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

He keeps faith forever.

He executes justice for the oppressed, He gives food to the hungry,
and sets the prisoners free.

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind, He lifts up those who are
bowed down, and loves the righteous.**

He watches over the stranger, and upholds the orphan and widow.

The LORD will reign forever, our God, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

– Psalm 146



The Widow's Mite, James Tissot, c.1886



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 all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Words: Joachim Neander; Transl. by Catherine Winkworth. Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

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.

Refrain

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 blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Public domain. Words, Fanny Crosby, 1873; Music, Phoebe P. Knapp.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in these words based on the epistles of the Apostle Paul:

Christ Jesus existed in the form of God –
for in Him all the fullness of God

was pleased to dwell.

*Although He existed in the form of God,
He did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped.*

But He emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant,
being born in human likeness.

*And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself,
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.*

**For this reason God also highly exalted Him,
and bestowed on Him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee will bow,
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

– from Colossians 1:19, 2:9; Philipians 2:5-11





PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for those who love their neighbors have fulfilled the law.

For all of the commandments are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

— Romans 13:8-10

[Silence]

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Jesus, What a Friend For Sinners

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus, Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a Strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my Strength, my vict'ry wins.

Jesus! I do now adore Him, more than all in Him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His, and He is mine.

Text: J. Wilbur Chapman; Music: Rowland H. Prichard; Tune: Hyfrydol



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death.

Those who look intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abide in it, not having become forgetful hearers but effectual doers, they will be blessed in what they do.

– Romans 8:1-2, James 1:25

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise
See and expecting God's hand in our lives

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Verse 2

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

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Text: Thomas O. Chisholm | Music: William M. Runyan



THE WORD

James 2:1-17

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 (spoken)

The Return, James B. Janknegt, 2001

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever. Amen**



Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Public Domain. Words: John Newton, 1779
(last stanza unknown author). Hymn tune: NEW BRITAIN.

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)

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 for aye we adore Him.

Words: Joachim Neander; Transl. by Catherine Winkworth. Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

Benediction

Beloved, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, may we, with eyes of faith, gaze into the perfect law of liberty, so that we may be faithful doers of the word and not forgetful hearers, walking in His ways all our days. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory throughout all ages.

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“It is better for a man to be silent and be a Christian than to speak and not be a follower of Christ. Those who profess themselves to be Christ's are known not only by what they say, but also by what they practice. ‘For the tree is known by its fruit.’ It is better to be silent and be a Christian than to speak and not be a follower of Christ. ‘The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.’ People ‘believe with the heart and confess with the mouth,’ the one ‘unto righteousness,’ the other ‘unto salvation.’”
– Ignatius

Lectionary for next week: Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; Isaiah 50:4-9a;
Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
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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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