

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
May 1, 2016 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

May God be gracious to us and bless us,

and cause His face to shine upon us,

That Your way may be known upon the earth,

Your salvation among all nations.

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

For You judge the peoples with uprightness

and guide the nations upon the earth.

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

The earth has yielded its increase;

God, our God, has blessed us.

God blesses us,

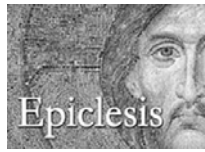
that all the ends of the earth revere Him.

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

– Psalm 67



The Paralytic and the Pool, Russian Icon



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, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Sung:

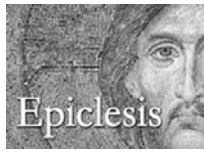
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration.

Bow Down

Bow down before the Lord; worship Him, O worship Him.
Bow down before our God; enter in, O enter in.
Consuming fire and sweet perfume,
His awesome presence fills this room.
This is holy ground, so come and bow down.

Holy, holy, holy Lord of hosts;
Saints and angels give You glory, now and forevermore.

CCLI Song #1222013 ©1993 Intergrity's Hosanna!
Music. David Baroni, Tony Sutherland. CCLI License #3097801



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Saints, hear and receive this testimony from the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John:

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, ... and the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

Its temple is the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb.

It has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

The nations will walk by its light; and only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life may enter it.

There will no longer be any curse; the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him.

We will see His face, and His name will be on our foreheads.

And there will be no more night; we will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be our light, and we will reign with Him forever and ever.

– from Revelation 21:10 – 22:5

We give thanks with joy to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

**For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

**For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and
through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things to Himself,
whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace
through the blood of His cross.**

God has made known to us the riches of the glory of this mystery:

Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Thanks be to God!

– from Colossians 1:12-28



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral call to confession

Lord, You have called us to become Your own.
We were bought with a price, the price of Your life and blood.
We love You, and we want to live for You.

[Silence]

Lord, help us to spread Your fragrance everywhere we go.
**Flood our souls with Your spirit and life. Shine through us, and
be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel Your
presence in our soul.
Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus!**

[Silence]

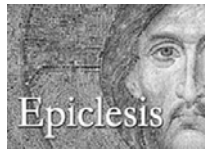
Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine.
**Let us preach You without preaching, not by words
but by our example, by the catching force,
the sympathetic influence of what we do,
the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You.**

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
God, the well-spring of life.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is faithful and true. This is His promise of pardon:

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD.
Look to the Rock from which you were hewn.

For the LORD will comfort His people; joy and gladness will be found in them, thanksgiving and the voice of song. And His justice will be a light to the peoples: His salvation will be forever, and His deliverance will never be ended.

– from Isaiah 51:1-6

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

Fairest Lord Jesus

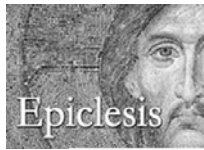
Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God, and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows; fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine; fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Words: anonymous, in *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; transl. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873. Music: *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842



THE WORD

John 5:1-9

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)

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.

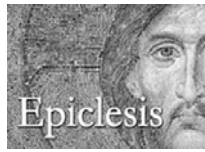
And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen



Jesus, I am Resting

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art.
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, and Thy beauty fills my soul.
For by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.

Chorus:

Jesus, I am resting, resting
In the joy of what Thou art.
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart.

Oh, how great Thy loving kindness,
Vaster, broader than the sea.
Oh, how marvelous Thy goodness
Lavished all on me.
Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved,
Know what wealth of grace is Thine;
Know Thy certainty of promise
And have made it mine.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
I behold Thee as Thou art.
And Thy love so pure, so changeless,
Satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings,
Meets, supplies its ev'ry need,
Compasseth me 'round with blessings,
This is love indeed.

Ever lift Thy face upon me as I work and wait for Thee;
Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of the Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with Thy grace.

CCLI Song #2697066; ©1998 New Spring; Words by Jean Sophia Pigott; Music by David Hampton. CCLI License # 3097801



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (reprise)

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.
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

Benediction:

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord.
Because He has triumphed over death, and the Messiah is Lord over
all creation, Savior of the world now and forever, you also live.

Alleluia! Amen!

Since we have been raised with Christ, let us now go forth as His
witnesses, loving and serving Him in the joy and victorious power of
His resurrection.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Let us allow Christ to speak through us. He desires it more than we do. For He made this instrument and wouldn't want it to be useless and idle. He always wants to keep it in His hands. Why, then, don't you make it useful for the Maker's hand? ... You should keep all its parts completely stretched, well strung, and reinforced with spiritual salt. For if Christ sees your soul tuned this way, He will make His music through it. When this has taken place, you will see angels leaping for joy (archangels and the cherubim too). So then, let us become worthy of His spotless hands.... Considering that He runs to those who haven't become their best yet, when He sees one completely equipped, what won't He do? If Christ makes music and the Spirit rests on us, we will be better than heaven. Although we won't have the sun and the moon adorning our body, the Lord of the sun, moon, and angels will be dwelling and walking in us..”

– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Acts 1:1-11; Psalms 47 and 93; Ephesians 1:15-23;
Luke 24:44-53

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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