

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

January 31, 2016 (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany)

The Light of the world ... is hated by the people.

GATHERING

Leader: We have gathered to worship the LORD, our God,
and to proclaim His story.

Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens;

You have done great things; O God, who is like You?

**My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, and Your deeds of
salvation all day long, though I do not know the sum of them!**

We will hope in You continually;

we will yet praise You more and more.

My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!

We will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples;

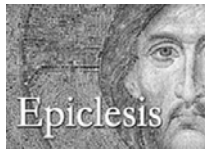
and sing praises to Your name among the nations.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

Let Your glory be over all the earth!

– from Psalms 71:14-19, 57:9-11





Behold the Lord

Great and marvelous are Your works,
Oh Lord Almighty.
True and righteous are all Your ways,
King of the ages.
Who will not fear You, oh Lord,
And glorify Your Name?

Chorus

Behold the Lord,
God is my salvation;
In Him I trust
And will not be afraid.
And I will give thanks,
And sing among the nations forever;
Behold the Lord, behold the Lord,
Behold the Lord.

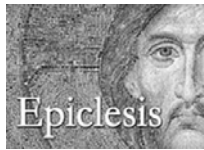
So rejoice and be glad in this,
Our God is with us;
Messiah, Emmanuel,
Lion of Judah;
Lift up your voice and declare
The glory of our King.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise





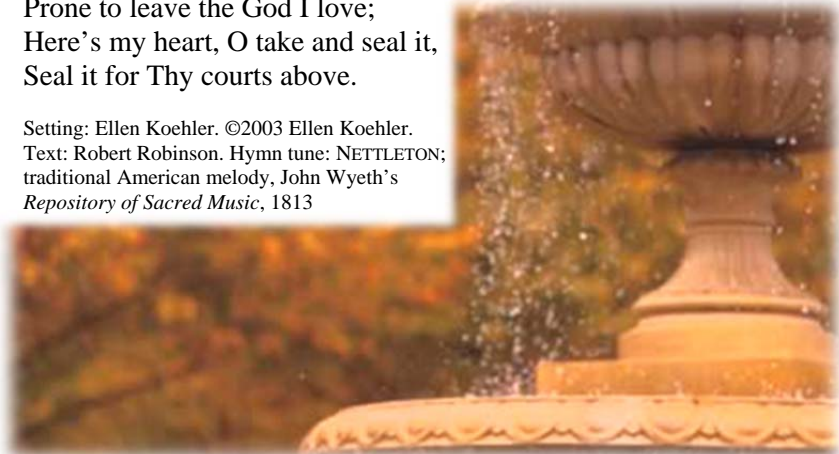
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

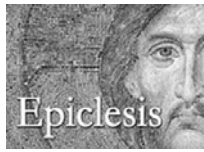
Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's redeeming love.

Hitherto Thy love has blest me,
Thou hast brought me to this place.
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger
Bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2003 Ellen Koehler.
Text: Robert Robinson. Hymn tune: NETTLETON;
traditional American melody, John Wyeth's
Repository of Sacred Music, 1813





PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

This is the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe:

*He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and blameless before Him.*

In love He predestined us to adoption as His children through Jesus Christ to Himself, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, that is, in the fullness of the times, He might sum up all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth.

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose, who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we should be to the praise of His glory.

**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. To Him be glory forever!**

– from Romans 11:33, 36 and Ephesians 1:3-14, 18

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (response)

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger bought me with His precious blood.

Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Your courts above.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

In You, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in Your righteousness.

*Turn Your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.*

**Be to me a rock of refuge to which I may continually come;
You have given the commandment to save me,
for You are my rock and my fortress.**

[Silence]

Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for You are my refuge.

Into Your hand I commit my spirit;

You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

**You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for Your name's sake
lead me and guide me.**

– from Psalms 31:1-5, 71:1-6

[Silent Confessions]

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me;
Let me hide myself in Thee.
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Words: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776.

Hymn tune: TOPLADY; Music: Thomas Hasting, 1830

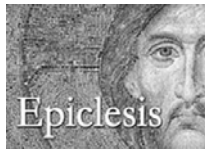
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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: 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

The Heart of Worship

When the music fades, all is stripped away,
And I simply come;
Longing just to bring something that's of worth,
That will bless Your heart.

Bridge:

I'll bring You more than a song,
For a song in itself is not what You have required.
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear;
You're looking into my heart.

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship,
And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.

King of endless worth, no one could express
How much You deserve.
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours,
Every single breath.

CCLI Song #2296522 ©1999 Thankyou Music; Matt Redman.

THE WORD

Luke 4:21-30

Journey to Jesus

Rite 2: The Rite of Covenant

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.**

Fountain of Grace

You have been faithful when I have been faithless,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
Forever giving when I have been selfish,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
Still the beginning of all that is holy,
Unsearchable Ancient of Days.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You were the constant when I chose to wander,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
You were forgiveness when I cried for mercy,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You are the author of all that is finished,
I owe You my life and my praise.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Pour out the water of life on this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

CCLI Song #2552558 (lyrics) ©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by EMI Publishing). Words and music by Twila Paris.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Behold the Lord (reprise)

Chorus

Behold the Lord, God is my salvation;

In Him I trust, and will not be afraid.

And I will give thanks, and sing among the nations forever:

Behold the Lord, behold the Lord, behold the Lord.

Benediction:

Now, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord –

May Christ, Light of the world and the Word made manifest,
be so manifest in us that our lives are light to all those around us.

To the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“God made you as perfect as seemed good to Him. He has given you a free mind. He has set many objects before you so that you can distinguish their nature and choose the good things for yourself. He has set the heavens before you and placed the stars in them. He has set the sun and the moon before you. They run their courses every day. He has set all of the waters before you and restrained them by His Word. He has set the whole wide world before you, which remains at rest and continues to thrive without changing. For fear that you might assume the earth continues because of its own nature, He makes it quake when He pleases. He has set the clouds before you, which, by His command, rain water from above and satisfy the earth. Consequently, you should know that the One who puts these things into motion is superior to them all. Accept His goodness with gratitude because He has given you a mind to distinguish these things from one another. Therefore, I advise you: know yourself and know God.”
– Melito

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2;
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

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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