

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

February 14, 2016 (First Sunday of Lent)

## GATHERING

Leader: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty – say to the Lord:

**My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!**

**His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.**

For He will give His angels charge concerning you,  
to guard you in all your ways.

*They will bear you up in their hands,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.*

When you call on Him,  
He will answer.

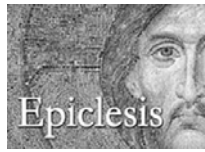
*He will be with you in trouble;*

*He will rescue you and honor you and you will see His salvation.*

Leader: "Because you have loved Me," declares the LORD,  
"I will deliver you. I will set you securely on high,  
because you have known My name."

– from Psalm 91:1-4, 11-16





### *A Mighty Fortress*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe –  
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruèl hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He –  
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him –  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also –  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:  
His kingdom is forever.

Public Domain. Martin Luther; translated by Frederick H. Hedge; based on Psalm 46

### INVOCATION

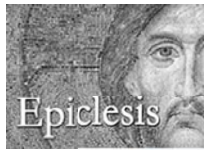
Prayers of welcome and praise

### *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2015 Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5<sup>th</sup> century;  
transl. John M. Neale, Henry W. Baker. Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11<sup>th</sup> century

*Made Me Glad*



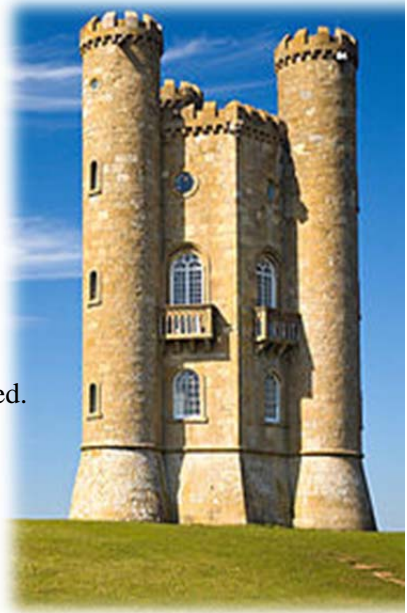
I will bless the Lord forever;  
I will trust Him at all times.  
He has delivered me from all fear;  
He has set my feet upon a rock.  
And I will not be moved,  
And I'll say of the Lord –

*Chorus:*

You are my Shield, my Strength,  
My portion, Deliverer;  
My Shelter, Strong Tower,  
My very present Help in time of need.

*Verse 2:*

Whom have I in heaven but You?  
There's none I desire beside You.  
And You have made me glad,  
I'll say of the Lord –



CCLI Song #3290709 © 2001 Hillsong Publishing; Miriam Webster  
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## PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the word of the Lord:

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” –  
that is, the message of faith that we proclaim:

*Because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe  
in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

**For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the  
mouth one confesses unto salvation.**

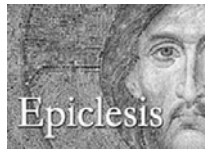
For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to  
shame.”

*There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is  
Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him.*

**For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

– Romans 10:8b-13

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION



Call to confession:

As for me, I will call upon God, and the LORD shall save me.

**Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud,  
And He shall hear my voice.**

– Psalm 55:16-17

*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.

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[Silent Confessions]

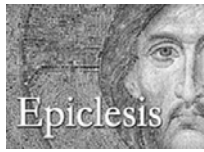
**God of compassion, we cry out to You, for You have promised to hear and deliver. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. We humbly confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offences against You and against others. Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo; free us from a past we cannot change. Heal us, O Lord by Your grace and love, and renew us in hope. For Your sake and for Your glory, Amen.**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer (verse 2)*

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



This is God's faithful promise of His love and deliverance:

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
My God, my strength, in whom I take refuge;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.  
*I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;  
And I am saved from my enemies.*

**In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.  
From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him  
reached His ears. He brought me out into a broad place;  
He rescued me, because He delighted in me.**

– Psalm 18:2-3, 6, 19

#### READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

#### TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.

#### *Everywhere*

Oh, the way the sea crashes on the shore,  
And with endless praise, glorifies Your name;  
Oh, the mountains green stand with faithful feet,  
Raised to point their song, and declare You King.

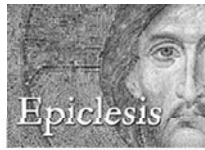
#### *Chorus:*

I can see You everywhere,  
All around me, in the air.  
You surround my heart with songs of rare belief,  
Creation groans, and leans on You.  
How I wish that I could, too.  
Teach me more to be like You.

You wrap Yourself in light, and You ride upon the wind.  
You cause the sun to shine, and obey to rise again.  
Of You I stand in awe, and fail with words to say,  
All of what You are is why I want to stay.

Rita Springer. ©2004 Kindred Joy Music.

#### THE WORD



Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13



## 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**



### *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noon tide heat, and the burden of the day.

O safe and happy shelter, O refuge tried and sweet,  
O trysting place where Heaven's love and Heaven's justice meet!  
As to the holy patriarch that wondrous dream was giv'n,  
So seems my Savior's cross to me, a ladder up to Heav'n.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face.  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Words: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1868.

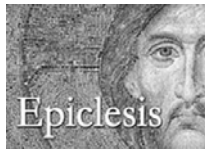
Hymn tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1881.

### *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.

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

Anon. German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677;  
transl. source unknown, vs 1-3; vs 4, Joseph A. Seiss.  
Music *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842  
Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010



## The Life of the Body

### *Made Me Glad (reprise)*

You have made me glad, I'll say of the Lord –  
You are my Shield, my Strength,  
My portion, Deliverer; my Shelter, Strong Tower,  
My very present Help in time of need.

CCLI Song #3290709 © 2001 Hillsong Publishing; Miriam Webster

### Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world, do so remembering that it is God, our Refuge and our Fortress, who gives perseverance and encouragement. **Amen.**

Now may the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance, as you walk in Christ's own footsteps, taking on His likeness, in this journey of Lent.

**We remember, and we go with grateful hearts into the world to love and serve the Lord. Amen. Thanks be to God!**

### *A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

"There must not be any space between our heart and lips, . . . The Word must be near us and within us. There must not be any delay between the heart and the lips. We must have a faith of conviction as well as of words. . . . The Apostle Paul explains the prophet's words: "That is the word of faith, which we preach; because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved." . . . Faith lies in simplicity, righteousness in faith, and true godliness in confession. For God doesn't call us to the blessed life through tiring investigations. He doesn't tempt us with rhetoric. The way to eternity is plain and easy: believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess that He is the Lord. . . . Jesus Christ died so that we could live in Him.." – Hilary of Poitiers

**Lectionary for next week:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1;  
Luke 13:31-35

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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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