

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 8, 2016 (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.

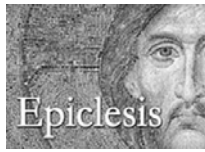
Sing praises to God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

— from Psalm 47 and 93



The Ascension of Christ, Rembrandt, 1636



Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You;
I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love,
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy; we want to see You.

CCLI Song #2298355; © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Paul Baloche

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

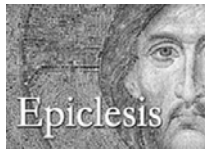
A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing

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, 15th cent.
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the gospel, which we received, by which we were saved,
and in which we stand:

*Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and
appeared to many faithful witnesses.*

Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
*In Him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.*

All things have been created through Him and for Him,
and in Him all things hold together.

*He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that He might come to have first place in everything.*

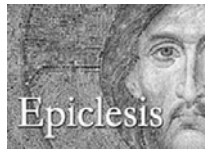
And God has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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

**This is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might,
which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from
the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly
places, far above all rule and authority and power and
dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age,
but also in the age to come.**

— from 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 1:19-23





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.

[Silence]

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.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

Setting: Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler.



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

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

Sovereign Lord, we acknowledge You today as our God and King. We acknowledge that all we are, and all we have, comes from Your gracious hand. In this time of worshipful giving of Your tithes and our offerings, we offer ourselves to You anew. It's all about You, Jesus. You alone are God, and we surrender to Your ways.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

It's all about You, Jesus.

And all this is for You, for Your glory and Your fame.

It's not about me,

As if You should do things my way;

You alone are God and I surrender to Your ways.

Jesus, lover of my soul;

All consuming fire is in Your gaze.

Jesus, I want You to know

I will follow You all my days.

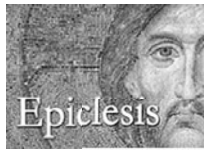
For no one else in history is like You,

And history itself belongs to You;

Alpha and Omega, You have loved me,

And I will share eternity with You.

CCLI Song #1545484 ©1995 Thankyou Music; Paul Oakley. CCLI License # 3097801



THE WORD

Acts 1:1-11

Luke 24:44-53

Ephesians 1:15-23



The Resurrection, Soichi Watanabe
Contemp.

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

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne.

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood.

Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood.



Alleluia! not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise, "I am with you evermore?"

Alleluia! bread of angels, Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to Thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, Earth Thy footstool, heav'n Thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh our great High Priest;
Thou on earth both priest and victim in the Eucharistic feast.

Words: William C. Dix, 1866. Music: Rowland H. Pritchard, Hymn tune Hyfrydol, 1830.

King of Wisdom and Light

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might:
Heaven is filled with Your glory, King of wisdom and light.

We worship You, We praise You,
God Most High;
We worship You, We praise You,
King and Lord, Jesus Christ.

CCLI Song #2514352; ©1998 International Liturgy Publications; Jim Cowan

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Jesus, Lover of My Soul (Reprise)

It's all about You, Jesus.
And all this is for You, for Your glory and Your fame.
It's not about me,
As if You should do things my way;
You alone are God and I surrender to Your ways.



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; Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34,35b;
Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27.

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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