

An Ancient-Future Faith Community Liturgy

July 3, 2016 (Seventh Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name! Make His praise glorious! Say to God:

How awesome are Your works! All the earth will worship You, and sing praises to Your name.

Come and see what God has done: For He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of men. He rules forever by His power.

We extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted us up. You have restored us, and You have given us life.

O LORD, by Your favor You have given us strength, You are our Rock and our Salvation.

You have turned our mourning into dancing. You have removed our sackcloth and clothed us with joy, so that our souls may praise You and not be silent.

Bless our God, and give thanks to His holy name. Let the sound of His praise be heard!

- Scripture weaving from Psalms 30 and 66



Galatians 6:14. The Consecration of Spiritual Power, Mark Lawrence, 2012



Garments of Praise

Put on the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness; Let the oil of gladness flow down from Your throne. Put on the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness; Your joy is my strength alone, my strength alone.

Make these broken, weary bones rise to dance again; Wet this dry and thirsty land with a river. Lord, our eyes are fixed on You, and we are waiting For Your garland of grace, as we praise Your name.

CCLI Song #2896001 ©1999 Integrity's Praise! Jamie Harvill

Sing to the Lord

And I sing praise, I give You my heart, I sing praise, I give You my all, I sing praise – Sing to the Lord.

Redeemer, Messiah, Rock of the ages, A help in trouble, a tower of strength; Emmanuel, Jehovah, God of Creation, Wonderful, Beautiful, King of all kings.

Bridge

God of compassion and God of all gladness, and Your tender mercies are new every morning, and God of compassion and God of all gladness and You dance around me, You dance around me.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863. Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and places in these words from the epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Galatians:

We know that a person is justified not by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ.

So we also have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

For through the law we died to the law, so that we might live to God.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

May it never be that any should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For through the cross of Christ the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!

And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

- from Galatians 2:16-20, 6:14-16

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

How blessed are those who fear the LORD, who walk in His ways!

What does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the LORD'S commandments and statutes?

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.

- Psalm 128:1; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Romans 13:9-10

Holy and merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Yet too often we have strayed from Your way.

[Silence]

By Your grace You call us to repentance, to be crucified with Christ that we might be raised as new creations.

In Your presence, and before one another, 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 a whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

[Silent confessions]

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.



Lamb of God

Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is faithful and true. Hear 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

On the strength of God's word, I declare to you -

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

— Galatians 1:3-5

Amen!



TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Not My Own

I am not my own; I am bought with a price. I am not my own, not my own. I am not my own; I cannot hold to pride. I am not my own, not my own.

Take this false desire, Burn it in Your righteous fire; I am not my own, not my own.

This is not my home; this is not paradise. This is not my home, not my home. This is not my home; I have been far and wide; This is not my home, not my home.

Make this longing true, Turn my wistful heart to You. This is not my home, not my home.

When I turn to find Your eyes, O Lord, O Lord, I begin to realize, Once more, once more – I am not my own; I am bought with a price. I am not my own, not my own.

Take this false desire; Burn it in Your righteous fire; I am not my own, not my own. I am not my own, not my own.

Words and Music by Twila Paris. ©2003 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by EMI Publishing)

THE WORD

Galatians 6:1-16



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 (sung)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heav'n. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us; Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours. Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)

Beneath the Cross

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I find a place to stand; And wonder at such mercy, that calls me as I am. For hands that should discard me, Hold wounds which tell me, "Come." Beneath the cross of Jesus, my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, His fam'ly is my own.
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
Now one, through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor the ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus, see the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown, We follow in His footsteps, where promised hope is found. How great the joy before us to be His perfect bride. Beneath the cross of Jesus, we will gladly live our lives.

CCLI Song #4610917 ©2005 Thankyou Music. Keith and Kristyn Getty.



SENDING FORTH The Life of the Body

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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.

Benediction

Beloved, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord – walking out our baptisms in faithfulness – may we have such an awareness of His steadfast love, mercies and transforming power, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth His praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to His service and walking in the Spirit, in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Amen.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory throughout all ages.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers -

"Compassion is closely connected to harmlessness. For although the latter doesn't hurt anyone, the former works good. The latter begins justice, the former completes it. .. . God has given us the affection of compassion so that we can protect lives by helping one another. If we are created by one God, descended from one man, and, therefore, are thus connected by the law of kinship, we should love everyone. As a result, we are bound not only to abstain from hurting others, but even not to take revenge when we are hurt. Then we will be completely harmless. Regarding this, God commands us always to pray for our enemies. We should be animals fitted for companionship and society so that we will protect ourselves by giving and receiving assistance. For our frailty is prone to many accidents and inconveniences. Expect that what you see happening to someone else may also happen to you. You will be stirred to help someone if you shall assume the mind of those who, being placed in danger, beg for your help."

— Lactanius

Lectionary for next week: Amos 7:1-17; Psalm 82; Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:-14; Luke 10:25-37

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. ©2016 E.K.