

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

July 17, 2016 (Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Lord, open our lips;

And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

Gloria Patri

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever,
Forever. Amen, amen, amen.

The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains,
the world, and those who dwell in it.

**Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded
and they were created. He established them forever and ever;
He made a decree that will not pass away.**

They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and tell of Your power,
to make known to the children of men Your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

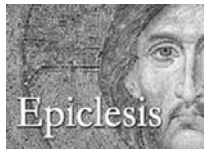
**For the LORD has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the
nations. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation
of our God. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
His dominion endures throughout all ages.**

O LORD, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants
who walk before You with all their heart.

**We will trust in the steadfast love of the LORD
and thank Him forever, because of what He has done.
In the presence of the faithful we proclaim His name, for it is
good. His faithfulness continues through all generations.**

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 24, 52, 98, 145, 148; 1 Kings 8:23





Ancient of Days

Blessing and honor, glory and power,
Be unto the Ancient of Days.
From ev'ry nation, all of creation,
Bow before the Ancient of Days.
Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth
Shall declare Your glory,
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne in worship;
You will be exalted, O God,
And Your kingdom shall not pass away,
O Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth;
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.
For none can compare to Your matchless worth;
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

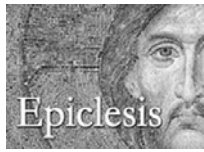
Come Thou, Almighty King

Come Thou, Almighty King;
Help us Thy name to sing.
Help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious;
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word;
Gird on Thy mighty sword.
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.



Ancient of Days, William Blake, 1794



Come, Holy Comforter;
Thy sacred witness bear. In this glad hour:
Thou, who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

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Text: Anonymous. Hymn tune: Felice de Giardini, 1769.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**This is the hope of the gospel,
which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven,
the mystery which was hidden from past ages and generations
but has now been manifested to us, His saints:**

Jesus is the Christ, the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

*In Him all things in the heavens and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities –
all things have been created through Him and for Him.*

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

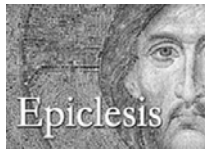
*He is the head of the body, the church;
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that He might come to have first place in everything.*

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.

*And although we were formerly alienated and hostile in mind,
engaged in evil deeds,
yet now He has reconciled us in His fleshly body through death,
in order to present us before Him
holy and blameless and beyond reproach.*

**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 1:15-28



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,
and who may stand in His holy place?

Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
Whose walk is blameless, who do what is righteous;

[Silence]

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

Those who speak the truth from their hearts,
Who do no wrong to a neighbor.

[Silence]

Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.

Those who honor those who fear the Lord.

[Silence]

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

*They shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from
the God of their salvation; they will never be shaken.*

This is the generation of those who seek Him,
of those who seek Your face, O God.

– from Psalms 15 and 24

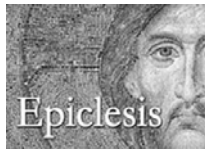
Blest are the Pure in Heart

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836). Public domain.
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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here is good news of God's salvation and His promise of pardon:

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

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

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

– Colossians 1:13-14, Romans 5:1

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Sovereign Lord, Creator, Righteous One

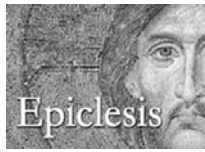
Sovereign Lord, Creator, righteous One, most high and holy King;
My Redeemer, Father, dearest Friend, my praise to You I bring.
I will praise Your name forever, knowing that You loved me first;
For You feed my every hunger, and quench my every thirst.

With my heart I'll ever worship You, my voice will sing Your praise;
For Your everlasting mercy and grace for every day.

All creation bows in humbleness before Your heavenly throne;
And I shall forever thank You for making me Your own.
You are higher than the highest, and the God of all who live;
You are worthy of all honor and praise that I can give.

All my life shall be a witness of Your majesty and grace,
And in heav'n I'll bow before You, and see You face to face. Amen.

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Gustav Holst (*The Planets*), adapted by Mary McDonald.



THE WORD

Colossians 1:15-28

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.

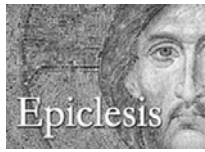
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
Forever and ever;
And Thine is the power,
forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory,
Now and forever,
Amen, amen, amen.

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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.

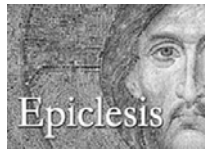
Words: William C. Dix, 1866. Music: Rowland H. Pritchard, Hymn tune Hyfrydol, 1830.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Come Thou, Almighty King (verse 4)

To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be.
Hence evermore:
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see;
And to eternity love and adore.



Benediction

Now, beloved, we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, Christ the King, with this prayer continually on our lips and in our hearts: Thy kingdom come, Thy will done on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

Now to Him who reigns 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, King of kings and Lord of lords, be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“We say, ‘Thy will be done, as in heaven so in earth’ not so that God will do what He wills, but that we may be able to do what God wills. For who resists God and prevents Him from doing what He wills? But since the devil hinders us from always obeying God's will with our thoughts and actions, we pray and ask that God's will may be done in us. . . . Now, if the Son was obedient to do His Father's will, the servant should be much more obedient to his Master's will! . . . This is the will of God which Christ both did and taught: humility in conversation; steadfastness in faith; modesty in words; justice in deeds; mercy in works; discipline in morals; inability to do a wrong, and ability to bear a wrong done; to keep peace with the brethren; to love God with all our hearts; to love Him as a Father; to fear Him as God; to prefer nothing above Christ (because He did not prefer anything above us); to adhere inseparably to His love; and to stand by His cross bravely and faithfully. When there is any battle against His name and honor, it is His will that we exhibit the consistency of confession; in torture, the confidence with which we do battle; in death, the patience with which we are crowned. This is to do the commandment of God. This is to fulfill the will of the Father.”

—Cyprian

Lectionary for next week: Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Genesis 18:20-32;
Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13

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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