

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

September 4, 2016 (Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship and praise the LORD our God.

**Fill our worship with Your grace, O LORD our God,
that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to You,
our Rock and our Redeemer.**

— based on Psalm 19:14

O LORD, You have searched me
and You know me.

**You know when I sit and when I rise;
You perceive my thoughts from afar.**

*You discern my going out and my lying down;
You are familiar with all my ways.*

Before a word is on my tongue
You know it completely, O LORD.

**You hem me in – behind and before;
You have laid Your hand upon me.**

*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

For You created my inmost being;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

*My frame was not hidden from You
when I was made in the secret place.*

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
Your eyes saw my unformed body.

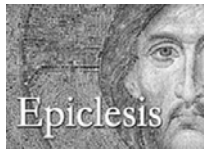
*All the days ordained for me
were written in Your book before one of them came to be.*

**How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!**

**Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.**

— Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18





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!

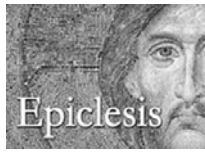
Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
How all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

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.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit



Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together confess the faith of the church of all ages in this response to the first question of the *Heidelberg Catechism*:

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own,
but belong – body and soul, in life and in death –
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for Him.**

– from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

Give me an undivided heart to fear Your name.

– Psalm 86:11

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? You are intimately acquainted with all my ways. You have enclosed me, behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.

– Psalm 139:3, 5, 7

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

– Psalm 139:23-24

[Silence]

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Create In Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart,
And purify me, purify me.
Create in me a clean heart, so I may worship Thee.

Cast me not away from Thy presence;
Please don't take Your spirit from me.
And restore the joy of salvation, so that I may worship Thee.

Donnie McClurkin. © 2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You, O LORD, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.

I give thanks to You, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. For great is Your steadfast love toward me; You have delivered my soul from the depths of the realm of the dead.

– Psalm 86:12-13



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Blessed are You, O Lord, our God.

All things were created through You and for You.

In gratitude, we bring Your tithes and our offerings as an expression of worship and a reflection of Your constant love. Amen.

All Around Me

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea,
Even there Your hand will lead and guide;
You're all around me.

Chorus:

And I'm surrounded everywhere I go;
Your presence covers me.
And Your constant love makes me know:
You're all around me.

Where can I go that I won't find you there?
If I try to hide you know just where I'd be.
You sustain me with Your faithfulness,
You're all around me.

Chorus

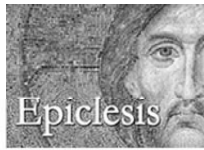
Bridge: (4 times)

All around, all around, all around You're...
All around, all around, all around You're...
All around, all around, all around me.

Chorus

Bridge: (3 times)

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THE WORD

Psalm 139



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.

Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,

Your name is holy, our Father.

Your kingdom come,

And Your will be done

Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,

Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,

Forgiving of what others owe.

Keep us from trials;

Save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom,

We sing the power,

We sing the glory be Yours –

Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

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Dwell

Dwell in the midst of us;
Come and dwell in this place.
Dwell in the midst of us;
Come and have Your way.

Dwell in the midst of us;
Wipe all the tears from our faces.
Dwell in the midst of us;
You can have Your way

Not our will but Yours be done;
Come and change us.
Not our will but Yours be done;
Come sustain us.

You can have Your way, oh Lord;
You can have Your way.
You can have Your way, oh Lord;
You can have Your way

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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)

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:

God the Father, who sent His Spirit upon His Son,
 bless you with the presence of His Spirit.
Jesus, who received the Spirit and manifested the Father,
 abide in you and make you a manifestation of His life.
And God the Spirit, who came upon Christ in the fullness of power,
 empower you to live in the pattern of baptismal spirituality
 revealed in Jesus.
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 –

“If ‘we assure our hearts,’ we must do so ‘before Him.’ Because ‘if our heart thinks ill of us’ or accuses us that we aren’t doing something with the right attitude, ‘greater is God than our heart, and knoweth all things.’ You may hide your heart from people, but try to hide it from God! How can you hide it from Him? For a fearing, confessing sinner said to God, ‘Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? and from Thy face whither shall I flee?’ He looked for a way to run away from God’s judgment, but he couldn’t find any escape. For where isn’t God present? ‘If I shall ascend,’ he said, ‘into heaven, Thou art there: if I shall descend into hell, Thou art there.’ So where will you go? Will you listen to this advice? If you are going to run from Him, run to Him. Run to Him by confessing, not from Him by hiding. . . . So say to Him, ‘Thou art my place to flee unto,’ and be nourished by His love that leads to life. Let your conscience prove to you that your love is from God. And if it is from God, don’t desire to display it to people. For human praises can’t lift you to heaven, nor can their condemnations bring you down from there. Let Him who crowns you see. Let Him who judges and rewards you be your witness.”

– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; Exodus 32:7-14;
Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

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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