

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

September 25, 2016 (Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

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!

For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper,
and from the deadly pestilence.

*He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings
you will find refuge.*

His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.

You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
*Nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the destruction
that lays waste at noon.*

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.

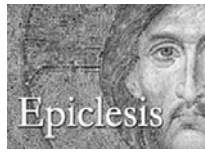
*He will be with you in trouble; He will rescue you and honor you
and you will see His salvation.*

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 91:1-6, 11-16





A Mighty Fortress is Our God

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.

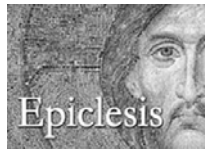
Public Domain. Martin Luther; translated by Frederick H. Hedge; based on Psalm 46

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

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

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?

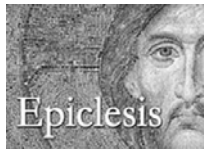
**My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own,
but belong – body and soul, in life and in death –
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**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

Truly my soul finds rest in God;
from Him comes my salvation.
*He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
I shall not be greatly shaken.*
Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
for my hope is in Him.
*On God rests my salvation and my glory;
He is the rock of my strength, and my refuge.*

Trust in Him at all times, O His people;
pour out your heart before Him, for He is our refuge.

- from Psalm 62:1-8

Almighty and merciful God,

We confess to You and to one another 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 our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

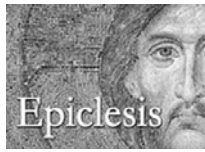
[Silent confessions]

In Your mercy, forgive us and accomplish in us the work of Your salvation. So draw our hearts to You, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly Yours, utterly dedicated unto You. And then use us as You will, that we may show forth Your glory in the world; through Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord Is My Light

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation;
In God I trust, in God I trust.

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71250 Taizé, France.*



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart rejoices in Your salvation.

I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.

**For the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.**

Therefore with joy we draw water from the wells of salvation.

Thanks be to the LORD! His name is exalted!

– from Psalm 13:5-6, Isaiah 12:2-4

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Jesus, Be Near to Me

Verse 1

Jesus, be near to me;

Let me know You are here.

How I need You, how I need You

To reveal Yourself to me.

Verse 2

Jesus, unveil Your pow'r;

Lord, let me sense Your love.

How I need You, how I need You

To reveal Yourself to me.

Chorus

Through the thunderous storm,

Or the still of the morning;

Through Your unchanging truth,

Through the breath of Your Spirit;

In my questions and pain,

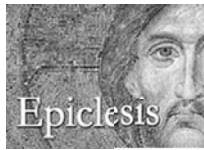
Whisper words of Your love

Always the same.

Bridge

Be near, be near to me; Reveal, reveal Yourself to me.

CCLI Song #7057122 ©2016 McKinney Music. Tommy Walker



THE WORD

Psalm 91

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.

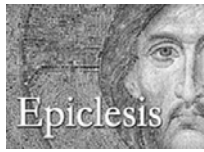
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



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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'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know: "Thus says the Lord."

Chorus:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him;
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus –
O, for grace to trust Him more.

O, how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Chorus

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.

Chorus

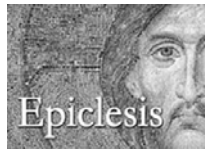
I'm so glad I learned to trust You:
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend.
And to know that You are with me,
Will be with me to the end.

Chorus

Words: Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882.
Hymn tune: William J. Kirkpatrick.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (reprise)

I'm so glad I learned to trust You: precious Jesus, Savior, Friend.
And to know that You are with me, will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him;
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus –
O, for grace to trust Him more.

Benediction:

Now beloved, go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord –
walking out your baptisms in trust and faithfulness – remembering
always that He who calls and saves us is a Rock and Fortress.

Therefore you shall not be shaken. **Amen!**

Now to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations
who fear Him, forever and ever.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Solomon says, ‘Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not upon thine own understanding: in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.’ Understand what He says: we must not trust in our wisdom, but in the Lord alone. For He directs a person's steps. We are also called to show Him our ways, to reveal our plans to Him. For they aren't made straight by our own work, but by His assistance and mercy. It is written, ‘Make my way right before Thy face.’ Then what is right to You will also seem also right to me. Solomon says the same thing: ‘Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.’ Therefore, thoughts are carried out when we commit everything we do to the Lord our Helper, resting our works on the firm and solid rock, and attributing everything to Him.”

– Jerome

Lectionary for next week: Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26; Psalm 137;

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9;

2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

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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