

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

October 2, 2016 (Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Name of the Lord

Clinton Utterbach*

GATHERING

We have gathered to praise and worship the LORD, our God.

He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of wrongdoers.

For they will soon wither like the grass and fade like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD and do good;

dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

Delight yourself in the LORD,

and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD,

trust also in Him and He will bring it to pass.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light of dawn,

and your justice as the noonday sun.

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him.

Those who wait for the LORD will inherit the earth,

and will delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

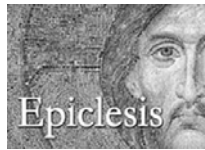
The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;

He is their strength in time of trouble.

**The LORD helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from
the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in Him.**

– from Psalm 37





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 Ellen Koehler. 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

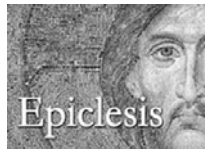
Sung:

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration.

Bow Down

Bow down before the Lord,
Worship Him, O worship Him.
Bow down before our God,
Enter in, O enter in.
Consuming fire and sweet perfume,
His awesome presence fills this room.
This is holy ground, so come and bow down.

CCLI Song #1222013 ©1993 Intergrity's Hosanna! Music. David Baroni, Tony Sutherland
(as sung by Bishop Paul Morton)



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

This inheritance is kept in heaven for us, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

– 1 Peter 1:3-5

By his resurrection he has overcome death so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death.

By his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.

Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

– from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 45

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.

Let us lift our hearts and our hands to God in heaven.

– Lamentations 3:40-41

Almighty and merciful God,

We confess to You and before one another that we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws.

[Silence]

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

[Silence]

O Lord, have mercy upon us. **Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. 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 God's covenant promise, the reason for our hope:
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning.

Great is Your faithfulness!

**"The LORD is my portion," says my soul;
"therefore I will hope in Him."**

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD!

– from Lamentations 3:21-26



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

He's Always Been Faithful

Morning by morning I wake up to find
The power and comfort of God's hand in mine.
Season by season I watch Him amazed,
In awe of the mystery of His perfect ways.
All I have need of His hand will provide;
He's always been faithful to me.

I can't remember a trial or a pain
He did not recycle to bring me gain.
I can't remember one single regret
In serving God only and trusting His hand.
All I have need of His hand will provide;
He's always been faithful to me.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

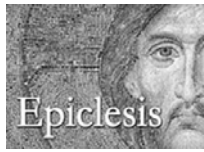
Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

©1923, 1951 by Hope Publishing Company. Thomas O. Chisholm, William M. Runyan

This is my anthem, this is my song,
The theme of the story I've heard for so long:
God has been faithful, He will be again;
His loving compassion, it knows no end.
All I have need of His hand will provide.
He's always been faithful, He's always been faithful,
He's always been faithful to me.

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THE WORD

Psalm 37

Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26

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**

It Is Well

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say:
It is well, it is well with my soul.



Chorus:

It is well, with my soul,
It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come;
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin – oh, the bliss of this glorious thought:
My sin – not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
When clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so” – it is well with my soul.

Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873. Hymn tune: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1885.

Agnus Dei

Alleluia, alleluia,
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, alleluia,
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, holy,
Holy are You, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb,
Worthy is the Lamb.
You are holy.
Holy are You, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb,
Worthy is the Lamb;
Amen.

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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:

Now, as go forth to love and serve the Lord, Christ the King –

May you be strengthened with all power according to His glorious
might, so that you may have great endurance and patience,
and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to
share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

—based on Colossians 1:11-12 (NIV)

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Let us stay alert and hold fast to Christ’s patience, by which we can reach God. This patience, abundant and diverse, is not restrained by narrow limits, nor confined by straight boundaries. But the virtue of patience is demonstrated widely. Even though its fertility and liberality come from a single source, . . . patience both recommends us to God and preserves our relationship with Him. It relieves anger, bridles the tongue, governs the mind, guards peace, rules discipline, and breaks the force of lust. It represses the violence of pride, extinguishes the fire of hostility, checks the power of the rich, and soothes the needs of the poor. Patience protects the blessed integrity of virgins and the careful purity of widows, and those united under a single affection in marriage. It makes men humble in prosperity, brave in adversity, and gentle towards wrongs and disrespect. It teaches us to pardon quickly those who wrong us, and, if we do wrong, to beg earnestly for forgiveness. It resists temptations, suffers persecutions, perfects passions and martyrdoms. Patience firmly strengthens the foundations of our faith and elevates our increasing hope. It directs our actions so that we hold fast to the way of Christ while walking by patience. While we imitate our Father’s patience, we persevere as sons of God.”

– Cyprian

Lectionary for next week: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c;

Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19; Hebrews 11:13-16

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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