

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

January 1, 2017 (Renewal of the Covenant)

GATHERING

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever.

We give You thanks, O LORD God, with our whole hearts.

We bow down toward Your holy temple

And give thanks to Your name

for Your lovingkindness and Your truth.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

those He has redeemed from trouble and gathered to Himself.

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

Let them remember His covenant forever,

the word which He commanded to a thousand generations.

We will remember the wonderful deeds which He has done;

His marvels and His judgments are in all the earth,

plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

The LORD will fulfill His plans and purpose for His people;

His steadfast love endures forever.

Come, let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation!

For the LORD is good and His mercy endures forever;

His faithfulness continues through all generations!

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 105, 107, 138, and Isaiah 25:2

Let It Rise

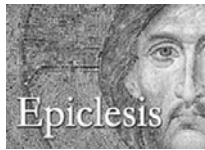
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the praises of the King rise among us;
Let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the joy of the King rise among us;
Let it rise.

Oh, let it rise; Oh, let it rise.

CCLI Song #2240585 © 1997, 1999 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; Holland Davis

Mt. Sinai, Phillip Prescott Parham, Contemp.



Holy Is the Lord God Almighty

Bridge

It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown.
It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown:

And together we sing; Ev'ryone sing:

Chorus

Holy is the Lord God Almighty.
The earth is filled with His glory.
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.
The earth is filled with His glory,
The earth is filled with His glory.

Verse

We stand and lift up our hands,
For the joy of the Lord is our strength.
We bow down and worship Him now;
How great, how awesome is He.

Chorus



CCLI Song #4158039 ©2003 worshipttogether.com songs; Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
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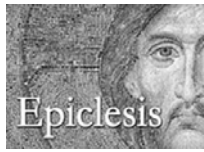
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

In you, eternal Father, and through your Son, Jesus Christ,
we find the beginning and end of all things.

In Him we find hope, forgiveness, and courage for new beginnings.

**Let then, O God, the fresh winds of your Spirit sweep into our lives
this day, so that these acts of worship may become a time of
renewal and rededication to your service. Amen.**



Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Ancient Irish Hymn (*Slane*); trans. Mary Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born
again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead.**

In fulfillment of His own purpose He gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

Because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, He made us alive together with Christ,

And raised us up together with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

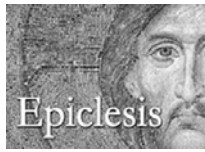
So that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace we have been saved through faith; and that not of ourselves;

It is the gift of God, not of works so that no one may boast.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them.

— from 1 Peter 1:3; James 1:18; Ephesians 2:4-10



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The word of the Lord:

“I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. ... My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” – Ezekiel 37: 26-27

The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

– Psalm 103:17-18

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

– from the Covenant Renewal service of John Wesley

[Silence]

Lord, Have Mercy

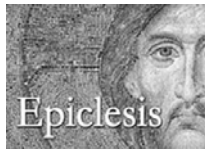
Jesus, I’ve forgotten the words that You have spoken,
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim.
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom;
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

Chorus:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on me.
(Repeat)

I have built an altar where I’ve worshipped things of man;
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You.
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing;
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again.

CCLI Song #2989578; ©2000 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music; Steve Merkel



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Now the message that we have heard from God' s Son and announce is this: God is light, and there is no darkness at all in Him.

If we walk in the light, just as He is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

— from 1 John 1:5-9

TIME OF OFFERING

All To Us

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation, You are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You, Jesus. We believe; You're all to us.
(Repeat verse 1)

Chorus:

Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You're all to us.

Verse 2

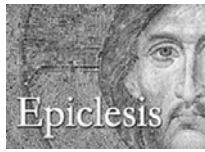
Only Son of God, sent from heaven;
Hope and mercy at the cross.
You are everything, You're the promise;
Jesus, You are all to us.

Chorus

Verse 3

When this passing world is over, we will see You face to face.
And forever we will worship; Jesus, You are all to us.
Jesus, You are all to us.

CCLI Song #5869860 ©2010 worshiptogether.com songs.
Chris Tomlin/Jesse Reeves/Matt Maher/Matt Redman.



THE WORD

Exodus 24
Nehemiah 8

THE COVENANT

Collect:

Father, You have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ as Mediator of a new covenant. Give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader:

In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him.

We stand within this covenant and we bear his name.

On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God.

Today, therefore, we have met to renew the covenant which binds us to God.

Let us claim the covenant God has made with his people, and accept the yoke of Christ. To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ himself is our only reward.

We take on the Yoke of Christ our guide.

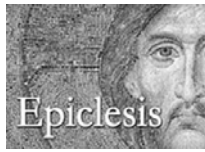
Christ has many tasks to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests; others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves.

We take on the tasks of Christ our reward.

Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore let us dedicate ourselves anew to this covenant with God. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in his promises

People (with hands extended and palms upward):

Ezra, Michelangelo, c. 1512



**I give myself completely to You, O God.
Assign me to my place in Your creation.
Let me suffer for you.
Give me the work You would have me do.
Give me many tasks or have me step aside while You call others.
Put me forward or humble me.
Give me riches or let me live in poverty.
I freely give all that I am and have to You.
And now, holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am Yours. So be it.
May this Covenant made on earth continue for all eternity. Amen**

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)

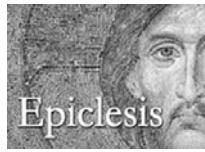
**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

I Will Bow to You

Lord, I will bow to You, to no other God but You alone.
Lord, I will worship You, nothing hands have made, but You alone.

I will lay down my idols, thrones I have made,
All that has taken my heart.
Lord, I will bow to You, to no other God but You alone

CCLI Song #3262139 ©2001 Integrity's Praise! Music; Pete Episcopo



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Be Thou My Vision (verse 4)

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Benediction:

May the God who established a covenant with those who seek to enter the kingdom be always present with you. **Amen.**

May Jesus Christ, who sealed the new covenant with His sacrifice on the cross, bring you peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit of God guide your life, now and forever. **Amen.**

Now, go in peace to love and serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship...– “Christians must go back to the Garden of Eden and reclaim God’s original purposes for creatures and creation. We are the image-bearers of God, and we have been given the task of making this world the theatre of God’s glory. It is not only the inner chamber of the heart that should glow with the presence of God, but our culture, too – our cities, our civilization, the whole of life.” (Robert E. Webber, *Who Gets to Narrate the World?*

Contending for the Christian Story in an Age of Rivals [Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008], 71.

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;
Matthew 3:13-17

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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