

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 28, 2017 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Ascension of the Lord

GATHERING

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty
and girded with strength.

His throne is established from of old;

He is from everlasting.

O clap your hands, all peoples;

Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the LORD Most High is awesome,

a great King over all the earth.

He sits on His holy throne.

God has gone up with a shout,

the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God; sing His praises!

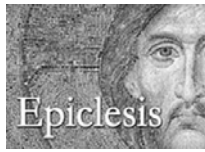
We sing praises to our King! We will shout His praises!

For majestic on high is the LORD!

— from Psalms 47 and 93



Ascension, Angela Taylor Perry, 2004



Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King; Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love.
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

Setting and chorus: Ellen Koehler ©2010. Original text: Charles Wesley, 1744.
Original hymn tune: DARWALL'S 148th, John Darwall, 1770.

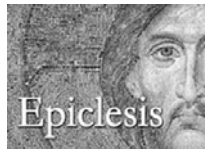
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing;
New* songs throughout the world shall ring.
Christ*, by a road* be*fore untrod*
Ascen* deth* to the throne of God.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All* praise to Thee let earth accord.
Who* art, while end*less* ages run*,
With Father and* with* Spirit One.



O grant us thitherward to tend,
And* with unwearied hearts ascend,
Un*to Thy king*dom's* throne, where Thou*
As is our faith*, art* seated now.

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735),
Hymnum canamus Domino; translated from
Latin to English by Benjamin Webb, 1854.
Hymn tune: JAM LUCIS ORTO SIDERE, 15th cent.
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ:
He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we would be holy and blameless before Him;
*In love, He predestined us to adoption as His children,
in accordance with His pleasure and His will;*
In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our sins, according to His grace;
*He has made known to us the mystery of His will,
to bring all things in heaven and on earth into unity in Christ;*
Having believed in Him,
we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
the guarantee of our inheritance in Him,
to the praise of His glory.
*In the exceeding greatness of His power,
He raised Christ from the dead
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all principality and power and might and dominion,
and above every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come.*
**He has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

— from Ephesians 1:3-23



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

God demonstrated His own love for us in this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

*Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

– Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16

Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from death to life, and have seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places that He might fill all things. Yet, we confess that we have not always bowed before Him, and have not always acknowledged His rule. We have not always followed His leading, and have failed to glorify Him in our lives.

[Silence]

Forgive us, we pray. In Your grace, and raise us from sin that we may walk faithfully in Your ways and delight in Your will, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

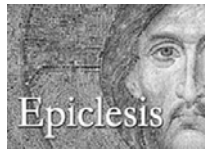
Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks;
We praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks;
We praise You for Your glory,
Almighty God and Father. Amen.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010. Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis
("Glory to God in the highest")



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of our pardon in His grace:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, even when we were dead in our sins and transgressions, made us alive together with Christ –

By grace we have been saved –

And He raised us up 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 exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

– Ephesians 2:4-7

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

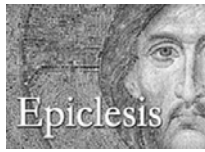
What A Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God, the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation,
Now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,
So, Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great; Your love was greater.
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful Name it is;
Nothing compares to this: the Name of Jesus,
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.



Death could not hold You; the veil tore before You.
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival, You have no equal;
Now and forever, God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory;
Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is; nothing can stand against;
What a powerful Name it is: the Name of Jesus.

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THE WORD

Acts 1:1-11
Luke 24:44-53
Matthew 28:16-20

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.**





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. Hymn tune HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Pritchard, 1830.

King of Wisdom and Light

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might:
Heaven is filled with Your glory, King of wisdom and light.

We worship You, We praise You,
God Most High;
We worship You, We praise You,
King and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Rejoice, the Lord Is King (verse 4)

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

Benediction:

Jesus Christ, this man who is God, participated in our humanity to die for us and to be resurrected for us, and He now has ascended to the very throne of God to continually represent us to the Father.

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

We have a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven;

And who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

He who did everything that ever needed to be done to save us now continually stands before the Father interceding for us!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Adapted from Hebrews 7 and 8, and Robert Webber,
Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004)

A thought about worship...— “The early church fathers saw the ascension of the Lord as the lifting up of the human nature of Jesus to the throne of God. The eternal Word was united to a perfect human nature in Jesus. Because Jesus participated in our human nature (without sin) and because through faith we are united with Jesus, our human but redeemed nature, united with Jesus, is lifted to the very throne of God. Leo the Great, an early church father, puts this profound truth this way: ‘For on this day not only have we been confirmed in our possession of paradise, but we have entered heaven in the person of Christ; through his ineffable grace we have regained far more than we had lost through the devil’s hatred.’” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 159.)

Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34,35b;
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39, 20:19-23

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

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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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