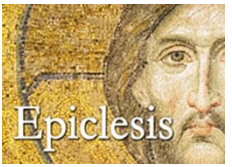


An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

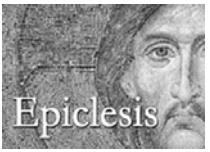
March 18, 2018 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

GATHERING

Lord, open our lips;
And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be ages unto ages.
Amen.

Your covenant love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,
Your faithfulness extends to the skies.
Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.
Your testimonies are fully confirmed.
Holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.
Whom have I in heaven but You?
And on earth, I desire nothing besides You.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
As for me, the nearness of God is my good;
I have made the LORD God my refuge,
that I may tell of all Your works.
O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,
And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 36, 93, 73



Come, Let Us Worship

Come, let us worship and bow down
Before the Lord Most Holy,
Before the King of Glory.
Come, and lay your burdens down
Before the Friend who's faithful,
Before the One who's able.

For He is our God,
And we are His people.
He is our God,
And we will never be forsaken.

Come, let us lift our voice in praise
Unto the Rock of Ages, unto the God who saves us.
Come, and glorify His name,
All the earth together, all the saints forever.

For He is our God, and we are His people.
He is our God, and we will never be forsaken.

For You are our god, and we are Your people.
You are our God, and we will ever praise You.
You are our God, and we will worship You forever.

CCLI Song #4241771 ©2002 sixsteps music/worshiptogether.com songs. Chris Tomlin, Jesses Reeves.

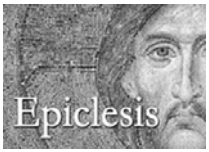
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

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.



Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessèd Trinity!

Public domain. Words: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

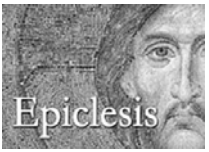
For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

This is the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe:

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.

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. To Him be glory forever!

– from Romans 11:33, 36 and Ephesians 1:3-21



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy:
"I dwell in the high and holy place,
and with the contrite and lowly of spirit,
in order to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite." – Isaiah 57:15

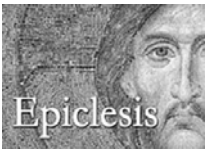
"These are the ones I look on with favor," says the LORD, "those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at My word."
– Isaiah 66:2

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.
– Psalm 51:17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against You, You alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in Your sight;
and so You are justified in Your sentence
and upright in Your judgment.

[Silence]

Surely, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and a sinner from my mother's womb.
Yet behold, You desire truth in my inward being;
therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me to hear joy and gladness,
that the bones You have broken may rejoice.
Hide Your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
– Psalm 51:1-10



Create In Me

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
(repeat)

Cast me not away
From Thy presence, O Lord;
Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me
The joy of Thy salvation;
And renew a right spirit within me.

©1984 Sparrow Records. Keith Green

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

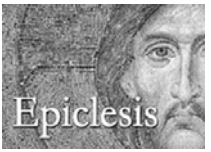
This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
Therefore, beloved, we hold fast to these sure promises of our God:

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

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous,
and His ears are open to their cry.
He is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves those who have a contrite spirit.
The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,
and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

– from 1 Timothy 1:12-17, 1 John 1:9, Psalm 34:15-22

Thanks be to God!



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

My Lips Will Praise You

My lips will praise You, for You are holy.
My voice will ever rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You, for You are lovely,
And You have called me to become Your own.

I am Your own, and I will worship You alone.
I am Your own, I am Your child.
I am Your own, and I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own, And I will love You.

CCLI Song #2552912 ©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music. Twila Paris.

THE WORD

Psalm 51

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

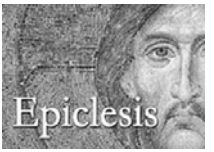
The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

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.

King David, Peter Paul Rubens, c.163



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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

Take My Life

Holiness, holiness is what I long for;
Holiness is what I need.
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

Chorus:
So take my heart and form it;
Take my mind, transform it;
Take my will, conform it
To Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

Faithfulness, faithfulness…

Righteousness, righteousness…

CCLI Song #1617154 ©1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Scott Underwood

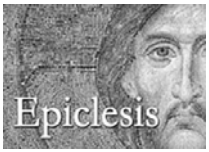
Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God Almighty. (repeat)
Who was and is, and is to come. (repeat)

Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

CCLI Song #1540719. ©1995 Thankyou Music. Nathan Fellingham

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Holy, Holy (chorus)

Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

Benediction:

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, loving and serving the Lord, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent, walking in Christ's own footsteps and taking on His likeness. Take care to answer honestly when someone asks, "How is it with your soul?" And even if you find yourself in a place of extreme disorientation, may a solid foundation of creation faith enable you to plant your feet in such a way that you may raise a song that points to Jesus and declares Him King.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers – "We can see the complete repentance of a sinner in the fifty□first psalm. . . . When the prophet Nathan rebuked him, David replied, 'I have sinned.' Because he confessed his sin immediately, he was comforted by the words: 'The Lord also hath put away thy sin.' David had added murder to his adultery. Yet bursting into tears he said, 'Have mercy upon me, 0 God, according to Thy loving□kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.' A sin so great needed great mercy. Consequently, he went on to say: 'Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned'—as a king, he didn't have anyone to fear but God—'and done this evil in Thy sight; that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest and be dear when Thou judgest.' For 'God hath concluded all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all.' And this was how David progressed: although he was once a sinner, he became a model for us after his repentance. For he was able to say, 'I will teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.' For just as 'confession and beauty are before God,' sinners who confess their sins and say, 'my wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness' are cleansed from their infections. But 'he that covereth his sins shall not prosper.'"

– Jerome

Lectionary for next week: Psalm 118:1-2. 19-29; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

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