

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 4, 2018 (Third Sunday of Lent)

We Bow Down

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,
And Lord of all lords You will be.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord;
We bow down and we worship You, Lord;
We bow down and we worship You, Lord:
Lord of all lords You will be.

You are King of creation and King of my life,
King of the land and the sea.
You were King of the heavens before there was time,
And King of all kings You will be.

We bow down and we crown You the King;
We bow down and we crown You the King;
We bow down and we crown You the King.
King of all kings You will be.

CCLI Song #20003. ©1984 New Spring. Twila Paris.

GATHERING

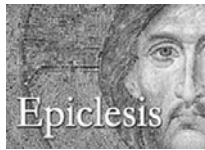
The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech; night to night reveals knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

**Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

(over)



The law of the LORD is perfect,
restoring the soul;

*The testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple.*

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

*The commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes.*

The fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever.

*The judgments of the LORD are true;
they are righteous altogether.*

They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

*By them Your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations;

**I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever,
even to the end.**

– from Psalm 19:1-11 and 119:89-90, 112

Praise the Lord! Ye Heav'ns, Adore Him

Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns, adore Him;

Praise Him, angels in the height.

Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;

Praise Him, all ye stars of light.

Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;

Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.

Laws which never shall be broken

For their guidance He hath made.

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;

Never shall His promise fail.

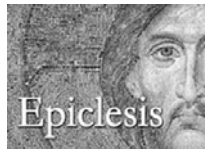
God hath made His saints victorious;

Sin and death shall not prevail.

Praise the God of our salvation;

Hosts on high, His power proclaim.

Heaven and earth and all creation, laud and magnify His Name.



Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;
We would bow before Thy throne.
As Thine angels serve before Thee, so on earth Thy will be done.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012. Text: anonymous (vs. 1 and 2), collected and published by Thomas Coram, 1796; Edward Osler (vs. 3), 1836. Hymn tune: HOLY MANNA (William Moore, *The Columbian Harmony*, 1825)

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Sung:

We bow down and we worship You, Lord. (3x)
Lord of all lords You will be.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased, through the foolishness of what was preached, to save those who believe.

We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not,
to reduce to nothing things that are,

So that no one might boast in the presence of God.

He is the source of our life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption, – in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

– from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

But who can discern their own errors?

Cleanse me from hidden faults.

Keep Your servants from willful sins;

Let them not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,

and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be pleasing to You, O LORD, our Rock and our Redeemer.

– from Psalm 19:12-14

[Silence]

May the Words of My Mouth

May the words of my mouth,
And the thoughts of my heart
Bless Your name, bless Your name, Jesus;
And the deeds of the day,
And the truth in my way,
Speak of You, speak of You, Jesus.

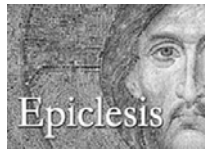
Chorus

For this is what I'm glad to do;
It's time to live a life of love that pleases You.
And I will give my all to You,
Surrender everything I have and follow You,
I'll follow You.

Lord, will You be my vision; Lord, will You be my Guide?
Be my hope, be my life, and the Way.
And I'll look not for riches, nor praises on the earth,
Only You'll be the first of my heart.

Chorus

CCLI Song #3232310 ©2000 Thankyou Music. Tim Hughes, Rob Hill.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's covenant promise to His people:

"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall all know Me, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sins no more."

— Jeremiah 31:33-34

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

Everywhere

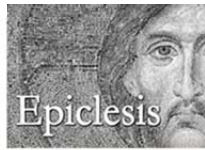
Oh, the way the sea crashes on the shore,
And with endless praise, glorifies Your name;
Oh, the mountains green stand with faithful feet,
Raised to point their song, and declare You King.

Chorus:

I can see You everywhere,
All around me, in the air.
You surround my heart with songs of rare belief;
Creation groans, and leans on You.
How I wish that I could, too.
Teach me more to be like You.

You wrap Yourself in light,
And You ride upon the wind.
You cause the sun to shine,
And obey to rise again.
Of You I stand in awe,
And fail with words to say,
All of what You are is why I want to stay.

Rita Springer. ©2004 Kindred Joy Music.



THE WORD

Psalm 19

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!

Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,

Your name is holy, our Father.

Your kingdom come,

And Your will be done

Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,

Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,

Forgiving of what others owe.

Keep us from trials;

Save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom,

We sing the power,

We sing the glory be Yours –

Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

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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.

CCLI Song #2514352; ©1998 International Liturgy Publications; Jim Cowan

Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; holy, holy is He.
Sing a new song to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat.

Chorus

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev'rything, and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power
Be to You, the only wise King.

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, at the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,
Such a marv'lous mystery.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



Praise the Lord! Ye Heav'ns, Adore Him (reprise)

Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;
We would bow before Thy throne.
As Thine angels serve before Thee, so on earth Thy will be done.

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 –

"While the faithful soul was lost and confused by its own feebleness, it caught a glimpse of God's magnitude in the prophet's voice. He said, 'By the greatness of His works and the beauty of the things that He hath made the Creator of worlds is rightly discerned.' The Creator of great things is supreme in greatness. Of every beautiful thing He is superior in beauty. Since His handiwork is beyond our thoughts, and the Maker is greater than thought itself, heaven, air, earth, and sea are beautiful. In fact, the whole universe is beautiful. And the Greeks agree. Because of its beautiful order, they call it *kosmos* (that is, order). Our minds can estimate this beauty of the universe by natural instinct. We also see this instinct in certain birds and animals whose voices we can't understand, but whose language is dear to each other. Since all speech expresses thought, a meaning apparent to them lies in these voices. So must not the Lord of this universal beauty also be recognized as the most beautiful among all the beauty that surrounds Him? For although the splendor of God's eternal glory exhausts our mind's best powers, we can't help but see that He is beautiful. We must truthfully confess that God is most beautiful. For even though His beauty is incomprehensible, it forces itself on our perception."

– Hilary of Poitiers

Lectionary for next week: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

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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