

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

August 25, 2019 (Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned on high?

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them.

Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned on high?

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Who is like You, O LORD our God: enthroned on high;
Majestic in holiness, awesome in praises?

— from Psalm 113:5, Hebrews 12:18-24, Exodus 15:11

You are God; we praise You!

You are the Lord; we acclaim You!

You are the Eternal Father: All creation worships You!

To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise:

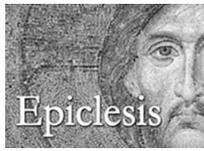
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

— from *Te Deum laudamus* (“Thee, O God, we praise”).

A hymn of the early church, fourth century.

Attributed to church fathers Ambrose and Augustine.



Only King Forever

Our God and firm foundation,
Our Rock, the only solid ground;
The nations rise and fall.
Kingdoms, once strong, now shaken;
We trust forever in Your name:
The name of Jesus.
We trust the name of Jesus.

Chorus

You are the only King forever; almighty God, we lift You higher.
You are the only King forever; forevermore, You are victorious.

Unmatched in all Your wisdom,
In love and justice You will reign;
And every knee will bow.
We bring our expectations;
Our hope is anchored in Your name:
The name of Jesus.
Oh, we trust the name of Jesus.

Chorus

Bridge

We lift our banner high; we lift the name of Jesus;
From age to age You reign; Your kingdom has no end.

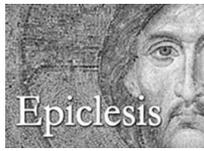
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
The Ancient of eternal days, and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heav'n confessed:
We bow and bless the sacred name, forever blest.



The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
And “Holy, holy, holy,” cry, “Almighty King!”
Who was and is the same and evermore shall be:
Eternal Father, great I AM, we worship Thee.

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” they ever cry.
Hail, Abr’ham’s God and mine! With heav’n our songs we raise:
All might and majesty are Thine and endless praise.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Text: Thomas Olivers, 1765; based on the Hebrew *Yigdal* of Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400. Music: Traditional Hebrew melody.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us continue our profession of faith and praise,
in the words of this hymn of the ancient church:

The glorious company of apostles praises you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praises you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praises you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims You;

Father of majesty unbounded,

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When You became man to set us free

You did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,

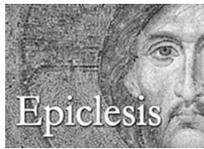
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help Your people,
bought with the price of Your own blood,
and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

– from *Te Deum laudamus*



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself,
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

—Hebrews 12:3

In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In Your righteousness, deliver me and rescue me.

Turn Your ear to me, for You, O LORD, are my hope and my trust.

Be to me a rock of refuge to which I may continually come;

**You have given the commandment to save me, for You are my
rock and my fortress.**

— from Psalm 71:1-5

[Silence]

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to You and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and
deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind,
and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.**

[Silent confessions]

Have mercy on us, Lord.

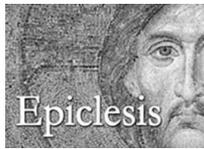
**Accept our repentance,
and accomplish in us the work of Your salvation,
that we may show forth Your glory in the world;
through Christ, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Bless the Lord

Refrain:

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.



Cantor (solo):

It is God who forgives all your guilt,
Who heals ev'ry one of your ills,
Who redeems your life from the grave,
Who crowns you with love and compassion.

Refrain

Cantor (solo):

The Lord is compassion and love,
Slow to anger and rich in mercy.
God does not treat us according to our sins
Nor repay us according to our faults.

Refrain

Cantor (solo):

As a father has compassion on his children,
The Lord has pity on those who fear Him;
For God knows of what we are made,
God remembers that we are dust.

Refrain

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Songs and Prayers from Taizé; Words from Psalm 103.

The LORD is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

For as high as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.

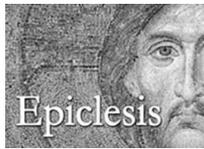
As far as the east is from the west,

so far He removes our transgressions from us.

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 103:6-13, 17-18

Thanks be to God!



TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Holy and loving God, You have graced us with abundant blessings – with Your light, Your life, Your awesome presence. And so with gratitude, in reverence and worshipful awe, we ask You to accept with these offerings our whole selves – all we have, all we are, all that we shall become – and our resolve to walk in Your ways. For Jesus' sake and for His glory alone. Amen.

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.

Holy, holy, holy Lord of hosts;
Saints and angels give You glory, now and forevermore.

CCLI Song #1222013; ©1993 Interglory's Hosanna! Music. David Baroni, Tony Sutherland

THE WORD

Hebrews 12

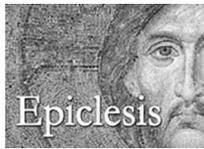
THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

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;
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.

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.

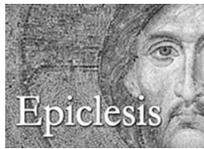
Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power
Be to You, the only wise King.

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 God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Public domain. Words: Thomas Ken. Tune: Old 100th (attributed to Louis Bourgeois)

Benediction:

And now, beloved, we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord – with thankful hearts and joyful resolve to trust and to follow Him wherever and however He leads. For He has promised that even now we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken. **Amen.**

Now to God be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations who fear Him, forever and ever – based in part on Hebrews 12:28-29

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“There are two kinds of blessings: temporal and eternal. Temporal blessings are health, honor, friends, wealth, children, a home, a wife, and other things from our journey in life. But we reside in the hotel of life as travelers moving on, not as owners intending to remain. For eternal blessings are eternal life, the body and soul's incorruption and immortality, the allegiance of angels, the heavenly city, unfailing glory and the Father—the former without death, the latter without an enemy. These blessings make us desire them with eagerness and ask for them with perseverance. We don't ask with lengthy words, but with groans. A longing desire is always praying even though the tongue is silent. For if you ever long for these things, you are praying. When does prayer sleep? When desire grows cold. So then, let us beg for these eternal blessings with eager desire. Let us seek these good things with entire earnestness. Let us ask for them with assurance.”

– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16;
Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112;
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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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