

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

September 8, 2019 (Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship and praise the LORD our God.

**Fill our worship with Your grace, O LORD our God,
that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to You,
our Rock and our Redeemer.**

— based on Psalm 19:14

O LORD, You have searched me
and You know me.

**You know when I sit and when I rise;
You perceive my thoughts from afar.**

*You discern my going out and my lying down;
You are familiar with all my ways.*

Before a word is on my tongue
You know it completely, O LORD.

**You hem me in – behind and before;
You have laid Your hand upon me.**

*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

For You created my inmost being;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

*My frame was not hidden from You
when I was made in the secret place.*

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
Your eyes saw my unformed body.

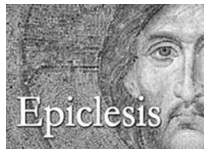
*All the days ordained for me
were written in Your book before one of them came to be.*

**How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!**

**Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.**

— Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18





Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging,
Mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
Grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
Around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

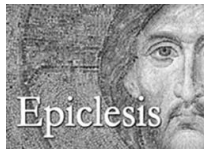
Lord, we are weak and frail,
Helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
Hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
His pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sov'reign God.

Let ev'ry creature in the sea
And ev'ry flying bird,
Let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry field
And valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
In all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word.

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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



Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Words, Fanny Crosby, 1873; Music, Phoebe P. Knapp.
Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2013.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together confess the faith of the church of all ages in this response to the first question of the *Heidelberg Catechism*:

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

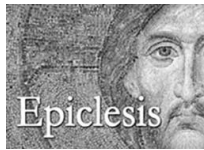
**My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own,
but belong – body and soul, in life and in death –
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for Him.**

– from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth.

Give me an undivided heart to fear Your name.

– Psalm 86:11

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? You are intimately acquainted with all my ways. You have enclosed me, behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.

– Psalm 139:3, 5, 7

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

– Psalm 139:23-24

[Silence]

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Create In Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, and purify me, purify me.

Create in me a clean heart, so I may worship Thee.

(Repeat)

Cast me not away from Thy presence;

Please don't take Your spirit from me.

And restore the joy of salvation, so that I may worship Thee.

Donnie McClurkin. © 2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music

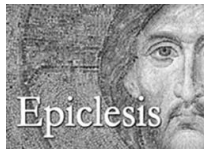
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You, O LORD, are good and forgiving,

abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.

I give thanks to You, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. For great is Your steadfast love toward me; You have delivered my soul from the depths of the realm of the dead.

– Psalm 86:12-13



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Psalm 62 (My Soul Finds Rest)

My soul finds rest in God alone,
My rock and my salvation;
A fortress strong against my foes,
And I will not be shaken.
Though lips may bless, and hearts may curse,
And lies, like arrows, pierce me,
I'll fix my heart on righteousness;
I'll look to Him who hears me.

Chorus

O praise Him, hallelujah, my Delight and my Reward.
Everlasting, never failing; my Redeemer, my God.

Find rest, my soul, in God alone
Amid the world's temptations.
When evil seeks to take a hold,
I'll cling to my salvation.
Though riches come, and riches go,
Don't set your heart upon them.
The fields of hope in which I sow
Are harvested in heaven.

Chorus

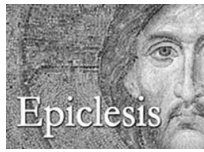
I'll set my gaze on God alone, and trust in Him completely;
With ev'ry day pour out my soul, and He will prove His mercy.
Though life is but a fleeting breath, a sigh too brief to measure,
My King has crushed the curse of death, and I am His forever.

Chorus

O praise Him, O praise Him! Hallelujah, hallelujah! (3 times)

Chorus

CCLI Song #5040902 ©2007 Thankyou Music. Stuart Townend, Aaron Keyes.



THE WORD

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Philemon 1:1-21

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Psalm 1
Luke 14:25-33

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.

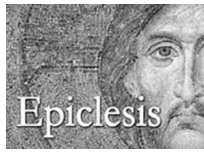
Christ will come again.



The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)



Dwell

Dwell in the midst of us;
Come and dwell in this place.
Dwell in the midst of us;
Come and have Your way.

Dwell in the midst of us;
Wipe all the tears from our faces.
Dwell in the midst of us;
You can have Your way

Not our will but Yours be done;
Come and change us.
Not our will but Yours be done;
Come sustain us.

You can have Your way, oh Lord;
You can have Your way.
You can have Your way, oh Lord;
You can have Your way

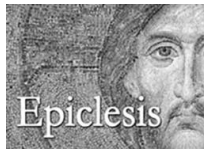
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SENDING FORTH The Life of the Body

Our Great God (reprise chorus)

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

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Benediction:

God the Father, who sent His Spirit upon His Son,
bless you with the presence of His Spirit.

Jesus, who received the Spirit and manifested the Father,
abide in you and make you a manifestation of His life.

And God the Spirit, who came upon Christ in the fullness of power,
empower you to live in the pattern of baptismal spirituality
revealed in Jesus.

To the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“If ‘we assure our hearts,’ we must do so ‘before Him.’ Because ‘if our heart thinks ill of us’ or accuses us that we aren’t doing something with the right attitude, ‘greater is God than our heart, and knoweth all things.’ You may hide your heart from people, but try to hide it from God! How can you hide it from Him? For a fearing, confessing sinner said to God, ‘Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? and from Thy face whither shall I flee?’ He looked for a way to run away from God’s judgment, but he couldn’t find any escape. For where isn’t God present? ‘If I shall ascend,’ he said, ‘into heaven, Thou art there: if I shall descend into hell, Thou art there.’ So where will you go? Will you listen to this advice? If you are going to run from Him, run to Him. Run to Him by confessing, not from Him by hiding. . . . So say to Him, ‘Thou art my place to flee unto,’ and be nourished by His love that leads to life. Let your conscience prove to you that your love is from God. And if it is from God, don’t desire to display it to people. For human praises can’t lift you to heaven, nor can their condemnations bring you down from there. Let Him who crowns you see. Let Him who judges and rewards you be your witness.”

– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14;
Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10;
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

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Text the word **Epiclesis** to 22828 to sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

Text the word **Connect** to (916)347-5038 to join our text alert list.

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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