

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
March 24, 2019 (Third Sunday of Lent)

GATHERING

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
*Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
and let your soul delight itself in abundance.*

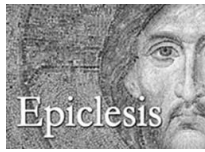
Incline your ear, and come to Me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
My steadfast, sure love for David.
Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

**O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You.
I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**

So we have looked upon You in the sanctuary,
beholding Your power and Your glory.
**Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips shall praise You.
So I will bless You as long as I live:
I will lift up my hands in Your name.**

— from Isaiah 55:1-3, 6; Psalm 63:1-4





Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord,
The Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
How all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

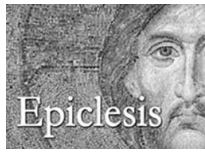
Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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



As the Deer

As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

Chorus

You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in these words from the epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans:

We know that God causes all things to work together for good
to those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

*He who did not spare His own Son,
but delivered Him over for us all,*

how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

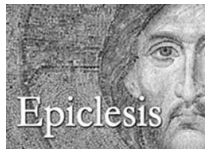
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,
Or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer
through Him who loved us.**

**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

— from Romans 8:28-39



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call upon Him while He is near.

Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them return to the LORD, that He may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,”
says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so
are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your
thoughts.”*

– Isaiah 55:6-9

[Silence]

God of compassion, we call upon You, for You have promised to hear and deliver. We humbly confess that we have sinned against You and against others, in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and heal us, O Lord, by Your grace and lovingkindness, for Your sake and for Your glory. Amen.

Wait for the Lord

Congregation (sung)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Cantor:

1. I waited for the Lord.

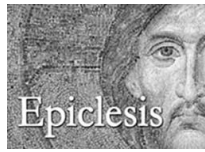
God heard my cry.

2. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord our God.

3. Seek first the Kingdom of God.

Seek and you shall find.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and deliverance:
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. He is righteous in all His ways, and faithful in all He does.

The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will hear their cry and save them. The LORD keeps all who love Him.

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

– Psalm 145:8, 17-21

TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.

Meditation and reflection:

Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise You.
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises You with joyful lips
when I think of You on my bed,
and meditate on You in the watches of the night.

For You have been my help,
and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

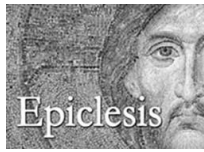
– Psalm 63:3, 5-8

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.

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THE WORD

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Cor. 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9



THE TABLE

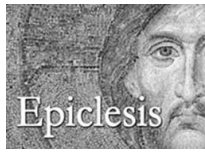
Remembering the Body of Christ

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 (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**



And That My Soul Knows Very Well

You make Your face to shine on me,
And that my soul knows very well.
You lift me up; I'm cleansed and free,
And that my soul knows very well.

Chorus

When mountains fall I'll stand
By the power of Your hand.
And in Your heart of hearts, I'll dwell;
And that my soul knows very well.

Joy and strength each day I'll find,
And that my soul knows very well.
Forgiveness, hope, I know is mine;
And that my soul knows very well.

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Darlene Zschech, Russell Fragar.

To the Only God

To the only God who is able to keep us,
Able to keep us from falling.
To the only God be all glory and honor, majesty and power,
For all ages now and forevermore.

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Chris Tomlin.

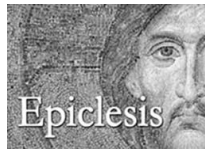
SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Jesus Set His Face To The Cross

Jesus set His face to the cross;
Jesus set His face to the cross.
And I must follow there with Him;
Help me, God, to journey 'til the end.
Jesus set His face to the cross.

Chris Alford and Ellen Koehler. ©2019.



Benediction:

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, do so remembering that God alone is your strength and shield, He who is always near. In His eternal faithfulness He saves, sustains, enables, and encourages you.

Be encouraged to observe a holy Lent – walking in Christ’s own footsteps, taking on His likeness, and living, as He did, in view of both mortality and eternity.

And just as Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem and the work He had to do there, so also may we set our faces in this Lenten season, as we, His covenant people, follow Him on the way to the cross.

We remember, and we go with grateful hearts into the world to love and serve the Lord. Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“If we always see God in our minds, and always remember Him, everything appears tolerable to us. We can bear everything easily and be above it all. For when we see or remember a loved one, our spirits are aroused and our thoughts elevated. We bear everything easily while delighting in the recollection. So then when we call to mind and remember the One who actively loved us, would we feel pain, or dread any terrifying, fearful or dangerous thing? Would we be cowardly? Never. For things appear difficult to us only when we don't remember God as we should, when we don't always carry Him in our thoughts. When we don't, He can rightly say, ‘Thou hast forgotten Me, I also will forget thee.’ Then the evil would be doubled: we forget Him and He us. . . . For the effect of God's memory is great. But so is the effect of our remembering Him. The result is that we choose good things and accomplish them. . . . Therefore, if we want to obtain good things, let us seek the things of God. For those who seek the things of this world will fail, but those who prefer the things of God will obtain them.”

– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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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