

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 31, 2019 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates and sustains us.

**He has made us new creations in Christ;
the old has passed away; behold, all things become new!**

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

How blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD;

All creation declares the goodness of our God!

**For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is great power to redeem.**

I waited patiently for the LORD;

And He inclined to me, and heard my cry.

**He brought me up out of a pit of destruction, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my footsteps firm.**

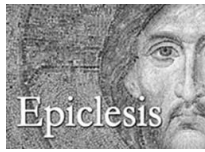
He put a new song in my mouth: Praise to our God;

Many will see and fear, and will trust in the LORD.

Let all who seek the LORD rejoice in Him; let those who love His
salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!"

— based on Psalms 124:8, 130:7, 40:1-3, 16





Made Me Glad

I will bless the Lord forever;
I will trust Him at all times.
He has delivered me from all fear;
He has set my feet upon a rock.
And I will not be moved,
And I'll say of the Lord –

Chorus:

You are my Shield, my Strength,
My portion, Deliverer;
My Shelter, Strong Tower,
My very present Help in time of need.

Whom have I in heaven but You?
There's none I desire beside You.
And You have made me glad,
I'll say of the Lord –

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

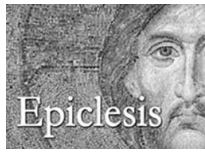
Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

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.

Refrain

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873. Hymn tune: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

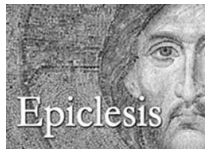
We believe that Christ died for all,
so that we who live
might no longer live for ourselves,
but for Him who for our sake died
and was raised again.

*Therefore, since we are in Christ,
we are new creations;
the old has passed away;
behold, all things have become new.*

Now all these things are from God,
who reconciled us to Himself through Christ
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, –
*That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself,
not counting their trespasses against them, –*
And He has entrusted to us
the word of reconciliation.

*God made Him who knew no sin
to be sin on our behalf,
so that we might become
the righteousness of God in Him.*

– from 2 Corinthians 5:14-21



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Blessed are those

whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are those

*whose sin the LORD does not count against them,
and in whose spirit is no deceit.*

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

**Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my
iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
And You forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to You.

– Psalm 32:1-6a

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against You and
against others, in thought and word and deed, through negligence,
through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly
sorry, and repent of all our sins.**

[Silence]

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive
us, that we may walk in Your ways in newness of life, and worship You
in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

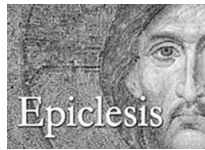
Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord; His promises are trustworthy and true:
I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

**You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with songs of deliverance.**

*Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but those who trust in the LORD,
lovingkindness will surround them.*

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;
and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

– from Psalm 32:7-11

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and expressions of devotion and thanksgiving. . .

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

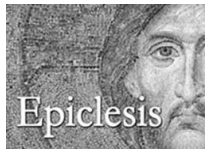
The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green.
The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel; by faith I know but ne'er can tell.
His beauty doth all things excel; by faith I know but ne'er can tell:
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words: from *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs*, compiled by Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784. First published in London by "R. H." in 1761. Tune: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987), 1967.



THE WORD

Joshua 5:9-12

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;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

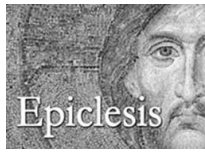
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;

And Thine is the power, forever and ever;

And Thine is the glory, now and forever,

Amen, amen, amen.

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Redeemer, Saviour, Friend

I know You had me on Your mind
When You climbed up on that hill,
For You saw me with eternal eyes,
While I was yet in sin: Redeemer, Saviour, Friend.

Every stripe upon Your battered back,
Every thorn that pierced Your brow,
Every nail drove deep through guiltless hands
Said that Your love knows no end: Redeemer, Saviour, Friend.

Chorus

Oh, Redeemer, redeem my heart again;
Saviour, come and shelter me from sin.
You're familiar with my weakness,
Devoted to the end.
Redeemer, Saviour, Friend,

So the grace You pour upon my life
Will return to You in praise,
And I'll gladly lay down all my crowns
For the name by which I'm saved: Redeemer, Saviour, Friend.

Chorus

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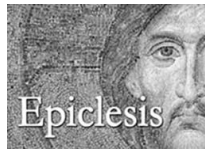
SENDING FORTH

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 is your Refuge and Strength, He who brings joy and newness to life. 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 a single sin is so awful that you think it's safer not even to aim for a holy life, how much more awful it is for an entire life to practice sin, and remain absolutely ignorant of the purer way! How can you, in your indulgent life, obey the Crucified? . . . How can you obey Paul when he urges you to ‘present your body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,’ when you are ‘conformed to this world,’ and not transformed by renewing your mind? How can you do this when you aren't ‘walking’ in this ‘newness of life,’ but still pursue the routine of ‘the old man?’ . . . Does all this seem insignificant to you—being crucified with Christ, presenting yourself as a sacrifice to God, becoming a priest to the most high God, making yourself worthy for the Almighty to look upon? What greater blessings can we imagine for you, if you make light of the consequences of these things? For the consequence of being crucified with Christ is that we will live with Him, be glorified with Him, and reign with Him. . . . Therefore, we want you also to become crucified with Christ, a holy priest standing before God, and a completely pure offering. Prepare yourself for God's coming by holiness. Then you too will have a pure heart to see God with.”

– Gregory of Nyssa

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

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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