

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

September 20, 2020 (Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the Lord, to exalt His name,
and to proclaim His story!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

We exalt You, our God and King!

Every day I will bless You;

I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

His greatness is unsearchable.

**All Your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all Your saints shall bless You!**

The LORD is good to all,

and His mercies are over all His works.

**On the glorious splendor of Your majesty,
and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

One generation shall praise Your works to another;

they shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom

and tell of Your power, to make known to the children of men

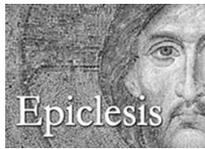
Your mighty deeds and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and Your dominion endures throughout all generations!

— from Psalm 145:1-13





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.

Chorus

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.

Chorus

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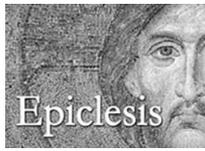
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fair are the meadows;
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer;
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.





Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man:
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Public Domain; Anon. German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; transl. source unknown, vs 1-3; vs 4, Joseph A. Seiss. Music *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842 Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010

PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the gospel, which we received, by which we were saved,
and in which we stand:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day,
and appeared to many faithful witnesses.**

Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

*In Him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.*

All things have been created through Him and for Him.
and in Him all things consist and hold together.

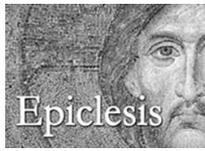
*He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that He may have first place in everything.*

**And God has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of His cross.

**This is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might,
which He brought about in Christ,
when He raised Him from the dead,
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all principality and power
and might and dominion,
and every name that is named,
not only in this age, but also in the age to come.**

– from 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 1:19-23



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, our God, there is no God like You in heaven or on earth,
keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to Your servants who
walk before You with all their heart.

– 2 Chronicles 6:14

[Silence]

Most holy and merciful God,

**We confess to You and to one another
that we have sinned, in thought, word and deed.
We have offended Your holiness.
We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
We have followed the devices of our own hearts,
and have spurned the promptings of Your Spirit.**

[Silent confessions]

**Forgive us, we pray. In Your grace, raise us from sin
that we may be Your holy people,
walking faithfully in Your ways and delighting in Your will,
to the glory of Your name. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

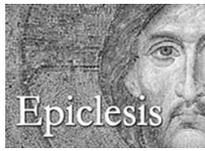
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. (repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

Setting: Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the LORD, whose judgments are in all the earth,
who remembers His covenant forever, the word which He
commanded to a thousand generations.

– Psalm 105:7-8

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and great in steadfast love.
*The LORD is good to all,
and His tender mercies are over all His works.*

He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He also will hear their cry and save them.

The LORD preserves those who love Him.

**All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,
and Your saints shall bless You.**

– Psalm 145: 8-10, 19-20a

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise of God's faithfulness

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

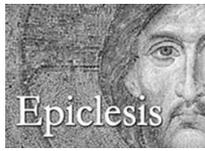
What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our Refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855. Hymn tune: ERIE, Charles C. Converse, 1868.
Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010.



THE WORD

Philippians 1

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.



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

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

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

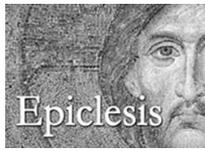
As we forgive those who sin against us;

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)



In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on the cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world, by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

CCLI song #3350395 © 2001 ThankYou Music; Keith Getty and Stuart Townend



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Benediction

People of God, we have worshiped the Lord together in this place –

We've gathered. We've heard the word.

We've come to the Table, the Feast of the Lord.

And now, as we go forth, in faith and joy, to love and serve the Lord, may He grant that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever.

Amen! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“The soul is humbled when it doesn't follow wickedness, but feeds on righteousness. For righteousness and wickedness are the soul's food. According to what it wants, the soul can prefer and eat either of these meats. If it is bent toward righteousness, it will be nourished by righteousness, morality, self-control, meekness, and courage. This was the case with our Lord. He said, ‘My meat is to do the will of My Father which is in heaven.’ But if the soul isn't like Him and prefers wickedness, it is nourished only by sin. . . . For the devil is food for sinners. In the same way, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the heavenly bread, is food for saints. For He said, ‘Except ye eat My flesh, and drink My blood.’ The devil is food for the impure and for those who do the deeds of darkness and not of light. Therefore, in order to turn them from wickedness, Christ commands these people to be nourished by the food of righteousness. This food is humility of mind, meekness that endures humiliations, and acknowledgment of God.” – Athanasius

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Lectionary for next week: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4,12-16; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-9; Matthew 21:23-32

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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