

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
April 25, 2021 (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The grave is empty!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

The Lamb is on the throne!

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before Him with joyful singing.**

Know that the LORD Himself is God.

It is He who made us and not we ourselves.

We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise;

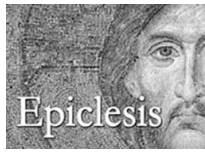
Give thanks to Him and bless His name.

For the LORD is good:

**His lovingkindness is everlasting;
and His faithfulness continues to all generations.**

— Psalm 100





Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice the Lord is King;
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love.
When He had purged our stains,
He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King!

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King!

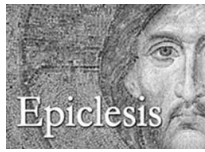
Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Original text: Charles Wesley, 1744; original tune: John Darwall, 1770.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him, praise Him!
Jesus, our blessed Redeemer.
Sing, O earth,
His wonderful love proclaim!



Hail Him, hail Him!
Highest archangels in glory;
Strength and honor
Give to His holy name.

Like a shepherd Jesus will guard His children;
In His arms He carries them all day long.

Praise Him, praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness.
Praise Him, praise Him ever in joyful song.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1869. Music: Chester G. Allen, 1869

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us affirm together the testimony of the apostle Peter:

God shows no partiality:

**But in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right
is accepted by Him.**

This is the message God sent,
announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ,
who is Lord of all.

**God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit
and with power; He went about doing good
and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with Him.**

And yet they put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree.

**But God raised Him to life on the third day, and revealed Him
to those who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.**

He is the One ordained by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

Of Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in
Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.

**And there is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals
by which we must be saved.**

—based on Acts 10:34-43 and 4:12



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy,

“I dwell in the high and holy place,
and with the contrite and lowly of spirit,
in order to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

– Isaiah 57:15

*For though the Lord is exalted, yet He regards the lowly,
but the proud He knows from afar.*

– Psalm 138:6

[Silence]

We Confess

Almighty God, we confess our sin;
What we have done, what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with a whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Have mercy, have mercy on us. Have mercy, have mercy.

Most gracious God, we have lost our way.
Like wand’ring sheep, we have gone astray.
We’re truly sorry, and we turn back
Now, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

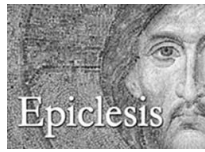
Have mercy, have mercy on us.
Have mercy, have mercy on us. Have mercy, have mercy.

As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our sinfulness.
He carried our guilt and shame upon Himself.
We are forgiven, forgiven. We are forgiven, forgiven.

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(Third verse lyric altered from first person to third person.) CCLI License #3097801

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, God’s faithful ones –
this is the good news of God’s salvation:



By His resurrection He has overcome death so that He might make us share in the righteousness He won for us by His death.

By His power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.

Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection!

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 45

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

— Romans 5:1-2

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

What A Beautiful Name

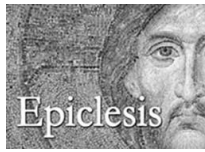
You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God, the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,
So, Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great; Your love was greater.
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful Name it is; nothing compares to this:
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You; the veil tore before You.
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again.



You have no rival, You have no equal;
Now and forever, God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory;
Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is; nothing can stand against;
What a powerful Name it is: the Name of Jesus.

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THE WORD

Acts 4

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.

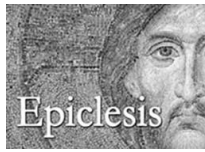
Give us this day our daily bread,

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.



Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us:
And we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So, we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace Around the table of the King.



The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you:
Eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin, shed for you:
Drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond,
And to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n around the table of the King.

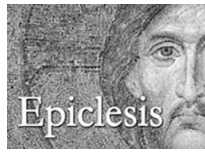
CCLI Song #5003372; ©2007 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Rejoice, the Lord Is King (verse 4)

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King! . . .



Benediction:

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord.

Because He has triumphed over death, and He lives and reigns – the Lamb upon His throne – you also live.

Alleluia! Amen!

Since we have been raised with Christ, let us now go forth as His witnesses, loving and serving Him in the joy and victorious power of His resurrection.

Alleluia! Amen!

Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –
bless you now and forever, as you go forth into the world
to love and serve the risen Christ.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“This is true sacrifice: every work that unites us in holy fellowship to God performed for His supreme good. For He alone can bless us in the end. Therefore, even our merciful acts aren't sacrifices if they aren't done for God's sake. For sacrifice is a Divine thing even though we make or offer it. Those who have vowed themselves to God and are consecrated in His name are sacrifices in that they die to the world in order to live for God. . . . Encouraging us to make this sacrifice, the apostle says, ‘I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.’ When the soul uses the body as a servant or instrument, it is a sacrifice if used rightly for God. But the soul itself becomes much more of a sacrifice when it offers itself to God. It is inflamed by the fire of His love in order that it can receive His beauty, become pleasing to Him, lose the shape of earthly desires, and be remolded into permanent love.”

– Augustine

Image credits. p. 1: Jan Styka, *St. Peter Preaching the Gospel in the Catacombs*, 1902 (Wikimedia); p. 6: *Chrismon Sancti Ambrosii*, Milan Cathedral (1669).

Lectionary for next week: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

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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