

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy

January 22, 2023 (Third Sunday of Epiphany)

GATHERING

O come, let us magnify the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to our Rock and our Salvation!

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined!**

You have multiplied the nation;

You have increased its joy.

**They rejoice before You with joy and exultation,
for the yoke of their burden and the rod of their oppressor
You have broken.**

Now our heads are lifted up above our enemies;

Let us offer sacrifices with shouts of joy in His tabernacle!

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that I will seek:

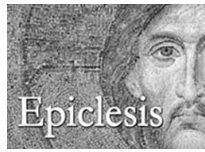
**That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my
life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His
temple.**

The LORD is our light and our salvation, our stronghold!

He has shown forth His glory. Come, let us adore Him!

— based on Isaiah 9:1-4 and Psalm 27:1, 4-9





Immortal Invisible (Your Great Name We Praise)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light;
Not wanting or wasting, You rule us in might.
Your justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Chorus

Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise!

All life comes from You, Lord, to both great and small;
In all life You live, Lord, the true Life of all.
We blossom and flourish but quickly grow frail;
We wither and perish, but You never fail.

Chorus

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light;
Your angels adore You, all veiling their sight.
All praise we will render, oh Father of Grace;
Till one day in splendor we see face to face.

CCLI Song #4088941 © 2001 Sovereign Grace Praise;
Bob Kauflin | Walter Chalmers Smith

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

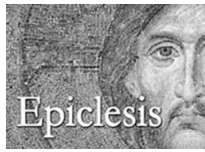
(Sung)

Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise.

Gloria Patri

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever . . . Amen. . .



PROFESSION OF FAITH

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through Him,
and without Him was not anything made
that was made.

*In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.*

There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness, to testify about the Light,
so that all might believe through him.

*He was not the Light,
but he came to bear witness to the Light.*

**The true Light which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world.**

He was in the world,
and the world was made through Him,
yet the world did not know Him.

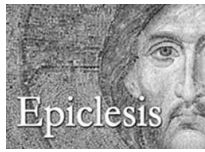
*He came to His own,
and His own did not receive Him.*

**But to all who did receive Him,
who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become children of God,
who were born, not of blood,
nor of the will of the flesh,
nor of the will of man,
but of God.**

**And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory,
glory as of the only begotten from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

No one has seen God at any time;
the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father,
He has made Him known.

– John 1:1-14, 18



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

You have said, “Seek My face.”

My heart says to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”

Do not hide Your face from me.

Do not turn Your servant away in anger,
O You who have been my help.

Do not cast me off or forsake me, O God of my salvation!

– Psalm 27:7-9

[Silence]

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You and one another in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come, yet too often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light.

Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness that can so easily shroud our lives. Empower us to live in Your light and to walk in Your ways, for the sake of Him who is the Light of the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.



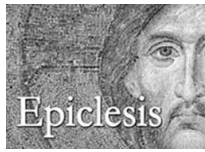
Lamb of God

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

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

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace; grant us peace; grant us peace.

CCLI Song #3204324 ©1989 Celebration. Betty Carr Pulkingham



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter. He will conceal me in the secret place of His dwelling, and set me high on a rock.

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

– Psalm 27:1, 5, 13

**We give thanks with joy to the Father,
who has qualified us to share in the inheritance
of the saints in Light.**

For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

– Colossians 1:12-14

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

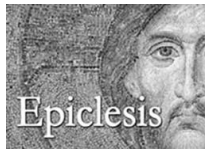
Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Lord of Lords

Beholding Your beauty is all that I long for.
To worship You, Jesus, is my sole desire.
For this very heart You have shaped for Your pleasure,
Purposed to lift Your name higher.

Here in surrender, in pure adoration,
I enter Your courts with an offering of praise.
I am Your servant, come to bring You glory,
As is fit for the works of Your hands.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,
Be glory and honour and praise.
All of creation resounds with the song:
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.



Spirit now living and dwelling within me,
Keep my eyes fixed ever on Jesus' face.
Let not the things of this world ever sway me,
I'll run 'til I finish the race.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,
Be glory and honour and praise.
All of creation resounds with the song:
Worship and praise Him, the Lord –

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,
Be glory and honour and praise.
All of eternity echoes the song:
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.

Holy Lord, You are holy. Jesus Christ is the Lord. . . .

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,
Be glory and honour and praise.
Call all the sinners to join in the song:
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords. Lord of lords . . .

CCLI Song #4869971 ©2007 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia. Brooke Ligertwood

THE WORD

Matthew 4:12-23

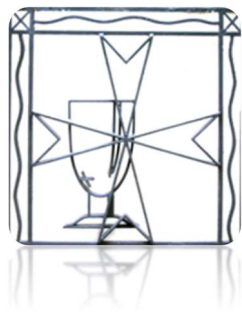
THE TABLE

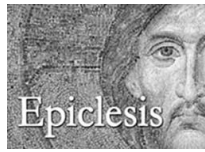
Remembering the Body of Christ

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!





Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,
Your name is holy, our Father.
Your kingdom come, and Your will be done
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials; save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom, we sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours – Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

Chris Alford and Ellen Koehler . ©2014. All rights reserved.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul; all consuming fire is in Your gaze.
Jesus, I want You to know I will follow You all my days.
For no one else in history is like You,
And history itself belongs to You;
Alpha and Omega, You have loved me,
And I will share eternity with You.

It's all about You, Jesus. and all this is for You,
For Your glory and Your fame.
It's not about me, as if You should do things my way;
You alone are God, and I surrender to Your ways.

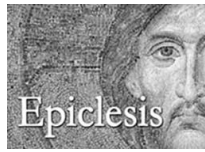
CCLI Song #1545484 ©1995 Thankyou Music; Paul Oakley. CCLI License # 3097801

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Christ, Be our Light

Longing for light, we were in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turned to You.
Make us your own, Your holy people,
Light for the world to see.



Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church sent forth today.

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell; © OCP Publications 1998

Benediction:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ
is the Light of the world:
Grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table,
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that He may be
known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“We, whose spiritual eyes have been opened by the Word, Jesus Christ, and who see the difference between light and darkness, prefer to take our stand ‘in the light.’ We won’t have anything at all to do with darkness. In addition, the true Light, endowed with life, knows who to reveal His full splendor to and to whom His light. For He doesn’t just display His brilliance due to the weakness in the recipient’s eyes. And whose eyes are affected and injured if we must speak of them at all? Those who are ignorant of God and whose passions prevent them from seeing the truth. Christians, however, aren’t blinded by the words of those who opposed worshipping God. But let those who know they are blinded by following crowds who are in error and groups that keep festivals to demons, draw near to the Word, Jesus Christ. He can give the gift of sight. Like the poor and blind whom . . . Jesus healed because they said to Him, ‘Son of David, have mercy upon me,’ those who draw near to Him will also receive mercy and recover their eyesight, created fresh and beautiful by the Word of God.”
– Origen

Image credits – p. 4: Consecration Cross, Church of All Saints (Norfolk, England), 1301, Wikimedia Commons; p. 6: Greek Cross with Chalice.

Lectionary for next week: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31;
Matthew 5:1-12

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113

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.

©2023 E.K.