

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

July 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

**I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. Rejected by people, He was chosen by God for great honor. *And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.*

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

So, we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

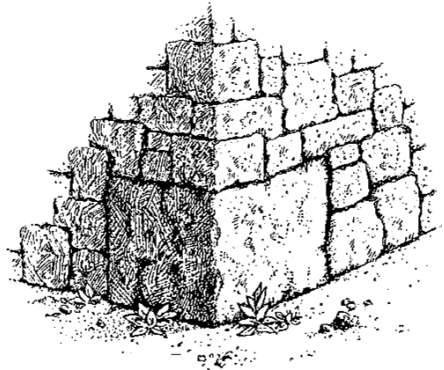
Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

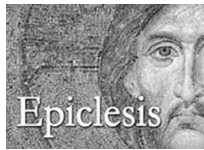
Give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.



Scripture weaving from Psalms 122:1, 100:3-5; 1 Peter 2:4-5; Ephesians 1:3-6 (NLT).



Come, People of the Risen King

Come, people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.

From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him.
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

*Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight.

For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands
Find the riches of His grace.

Over all the world, His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call.
The Truth that cries through every age
"Our God is all in all".

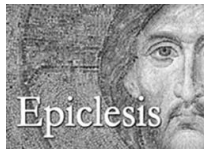


CCLI Song #: 5232617, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend. © 2009 Thankyou Music

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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



Behold Our God

Who has held the ocean in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

*Behold our God, seated on His throne;
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come, let us adore Him.*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign.



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PROFESSION OF FAITH

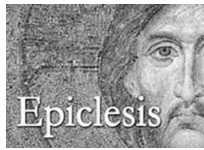
Let us together express the faith of the church in all times and all places, in the words of John the apostle:

God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.

If we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

If anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

Love one another. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and we must also live it.



Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

This is real love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Amen.

– Adapted from 1st John (NLT).

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

*Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.*

**Lord Jesus, where we have failed to listen to You: Have mercy!
Where we have failed to trust You: Have mercy!
Where we have failed to obey You: Have mercy!
Where we have failed to delight in You: Have mercy!**

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.*

**Where we have sought to be served, rather than to serve others,
Have mercy!
Where we have avoided the way of the cross, Have mercy!
Where we have taken our eyes off You, Have mercy!**

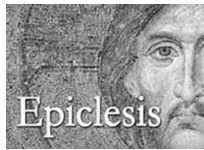
[silent confessions]

Forgive us, restore us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**I acknowledged my sin to you, and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
You are a hiding place for me. You preserve me from trouble.**



**You surround me with songs of deliverance.
God made us alive with Christ and forgave all our sins.
He cancelled the record of the charges against us,
And took it away, nailing to the cross.**

-- from Psalm 32:5-7, Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT).

*You have brought me, God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.*

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Adaptation by Christopher Alford and Cristian Cazacu

PASSING OF THE PEACE

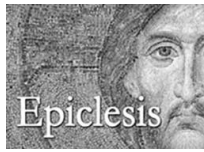
TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer.
He is the best the Father has to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side the Savior, He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me,
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.



No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.

Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.

Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

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Alleluia! Music. Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren.

THE WORD

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

O Come, All You Unfaithful

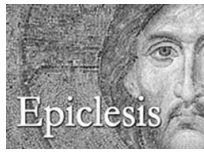
O come, all you unfaithful,
Come, weak and unstable,
Come, know you are not alone.
O come, barren and waiting ones,
Weary of praying, come,
See what your God has done.

*Christ is here, Christ in near,
Christ is Lord of all.*

O come, bitter and broken,
Come with fears unspoken,
Come, taste of His perfect love.
O come, guilty and hiding ones,
There is no need to run;
See what your God has done?

*Christ is here, Christ in near,
Christ is Lord of all.*





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...

Holy, Holy, Holy!...

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.

He's the Lamb who was given,

Slain for our pardon.

His promise is peace,

For those who believe.

So come, though you have nothing,

Come, He is the offering,

Come, see what your God has done.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me (reprise)

With every step I pledge to follow Jesus,
The Pioneer, Perfecter of my faith.
I run the race that He has set before me
Until the day I see him face to face.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.

All the glory evermore to Him.

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

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Integrity's Alleluia! Music. Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren.

Benediction:

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

A thought about worship for the week to come:

Only God's great Story "puts our individual stories in their proper place and in appropriate perspective." Robbie F. Castleman, *Story Shaped Worship: Following Patterns from the Bible and History*.

Image credits – p. 4: "Jesus and the lamb" by Katherine Brown, © 1982; p. 7: "The Best Supper," by Jan L. Richardson, from her book "In Wisdom's Path."

Lectionary readings for next week:

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

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

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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