

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

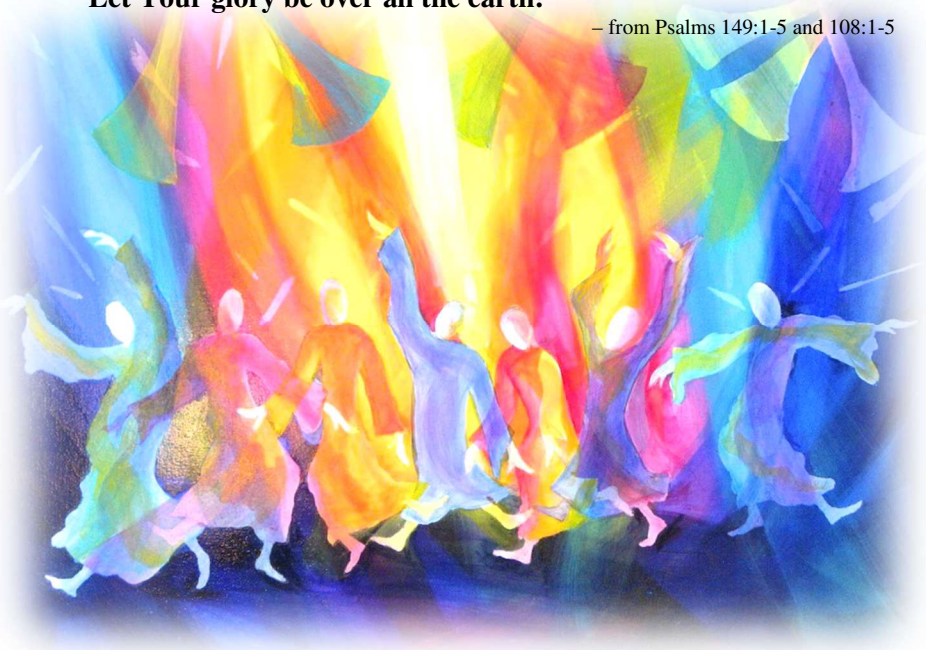
September 6, 2026 (Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

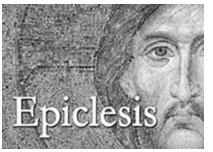
GATHERING

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
His praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel be glad in their Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
Let them praise His name with dancing,
let them make melody to Him with instruments and song!
For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;
He adorns the humble with victory.
Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy and be glad!

My heart is steadfast, O God!
I will sing and make melody with all my being!
I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to You among the nations.
For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens;
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let Your glory be over all the earth!

– from Psalms 149:1-5 and 108:1-5





Sing to the Lord

Eternal, Immortal God of all glory,
Fearful in wonders and worthy of praise;
The Alpha, Omega, Lord God Almighty,
Wonderful, Beautiful, Ancient of Days.

Chorus
And I sing praise, I give You my heart,
I sing praise, I give You my all,
I sing praise—
Sing to the Lord.

Redeemer, Messiah, Rock of the ages,
A help in trouble, a tower of strength;
Emmanuel, Jehovah, God of Creation,
Wonderful, Beautiful, King of all kings.

Bridge
God of compassion and God of all gladness and
Your tender mercies are new every morning, and
God of compassion and God of all gladness and
You dance around me,
You dance around me.

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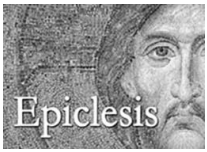
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS
Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

Step By Step

O God, You are my God,
And I will ever praise You. (repeat)

I will seek You in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in Your ways;
And step by step You'll lead me,
And I will follow You all of my days.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and places in these words from the epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Colossians:

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord,
so walk in Him,
firmly rooted and built up in Him
and established in your faith,
just as you were instructed,
and overflowing with gratitude.



In Him all the fullness of Deity
dwells in bodily form,
and He has made us complete in Him,
who is the head of all rule and authority,
principality and power.

In Him we also were circumcised
with a circumcision made without hands,
in the removal of the body of the flesh
by the circumcision of Christ.

We were buried with Him in baptism,
in which we also were raised with Him
through faith in the working of God,
who raised Him from the dead.

When we were dead in our sins
and in the uncircumcision of our flesh,
God made us alive together with Christ.

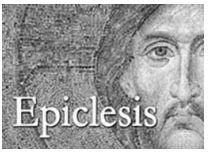
And He forgave us all our transgressions,
having cancelled out the certificate of debt against us
with its legal demands, which was hostile to us.

He set this aside, having nailed it to the cross.

When He disarmed the rulers and authorities,
He made a public display of them,
having triumphed over them through Him.

We hold fast to the Head, Christ Jesus the Lord,
from whom the entire body,
being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments,
grows with a growth which is from God.

– from Colossians 2:6-19



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
Direct me in the path of Your commandments,
for I delight in it. – Psalm 119:33-35

Grant us, we beseech You, Almighty and most Merciful God,
fervently to desire, wisely to search out, and perfectly to fulfil,
all that is well-pleasing to You.

[Silence]

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give me an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give me an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

[Silence]

And of all that You require me to do, grant me the knowledge, the desire, and the ability, that I may so fulfil it as I ought, and may my path to You, I pray, be safe, straightforward, and perfect to the end.

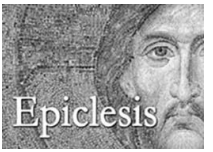
– from a prayer by Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

A Pure Heart

A pure heart, that's what I long for,
A heart that follows hard after You.
(repeat)

A heart that hides Your word so that sin will not come in,
A heart that's undivided, but one You rule and reign.
A heart that beats compassion, that pleases You, my Lord;
A sweet aroma of worship that rises to Your throne.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, this is the promise of the God of steadfast love:

Blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who walk in His ways!
How blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who find great delight in His commands!
How blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!
How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,
who seek Him with all their heart! – Psalm 112:1. 119:1-2, 128:1

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

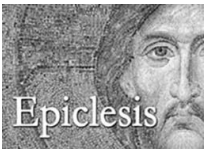
Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord,
There is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing;
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

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THE WORD

Psalm 119:33-40

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)

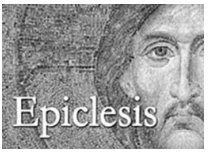
Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

More Like Jesus

You came to the world You created,
Trading Your crown for a cross.
You willingly died, Your innocent life paid the cost.

Counting Your status as nothing,
The King of all kings came to serve;
Washing my feet, covering me with Your love.

Chorus:
If more of You means less of me, take everything.
Yes, all of You, is all I need; take everything.



You are my life and my treasure,
The One that I can't live without.
Here at Your feet, my desires and dreams I lay down.
Here at Your feet, my desires and dreams I lay down.

Bridge:
O, Lord, change me like only You can.
Here with my heart in Your hands,
Father, I pray: Make me more like Jesus.
This world is dying to know who You are.
You've shown us the way to Your heart.
So, Father, I pray: Make me more like Jesus.

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Take My Life

Holiness, holiness is what I long for; holiness is what I need.
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

So take my heart and form it; take my mind, transform it;
Take my will, conform it to Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

Faithfulness, faithfulness…

Righteousness, righteousness…

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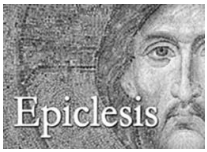
SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Aaron's Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you. (echo)
May the Lord make His face to shine on you. (echo)
And be gracious to you. (echo).

May the Lord lift His countenance on you. (echo)
May the Lord lift His countenance on you. (echo)
May He keep you in perfect peace. (echo)

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Benediction

Now, beloved, let us pray this together,
as we prepare to leave this place:
May the love of God enfold us.
May the grace of God uphold us.
May the power of God enable us
as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.
Now to God, who by the means of the power working in us
is able to do so much more than we can ask or even think,
to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all times,
for ever and ever.
Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

"He who is both the Lord and most indulgent Parent promises that He will forgive the sins of the repentant. He will blot out all the iniquities of those who begin afresh practicing righteousness. For former uprightness is no use to those who live badly. The subsequent wickedness has destroyed their righteous works. In the same way, former sins don't stand in the way of those who have corrected their lives because the subsequent righteousness has erased the stain of their former lives. Those who repent of what they have done understand their former errors. Regarding this, the Greeks speak better and more significantly of metanoia, which we may speak of as a return to right understanding. Those who return to a right understanding and rescue their minds from madness, who grieve over their errors and rebuke themselves for madness, and commit their minds to a better course of life are guarded against being led into the same snares again. In short, even when dumb animals are ensnared by trickery but have untangled themselves and escaped, they become more cautious in the future. They will always avoid the things in which they have seen tricks, wiles, and snares. Therefore, repentance makes us cautious and diligent to avoid the faults which we once were tricked into." – Lactantius

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Lectionary for next week: Exodus 14:19-31, 15:1b-11, 20-21; Psalm 114;
Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13; Romans 14:1-12;
Matthew 18:21-35

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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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