

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

September 27, 2026 (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

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

Who is like You, O LORD –

Majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?

O LORD, You are mighty forever.

Your faithfulness surrounds You;

There is none like You, nor are there any works like Yours.

All the nations You have made shall come and bow down before You,
O LORD, and shall glorify Your name.

For You are great and do wondrous things;

You alone are God.

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;
we will tell of all Your wonderful deeds.

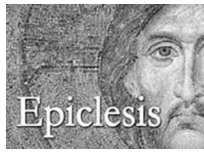
We will be glad and exult in You, O Most High.

and sing praises to Your name.

Blessed be Your glorious name forever!

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 86:8-10 and 9:1-2





Only A Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness tremble?
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendour outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.



Chorus:

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God.

Chorus

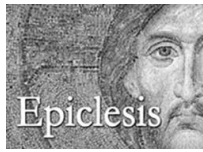
Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God.

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



We Fall Down

We fall down, we lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus,
The greatness of mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus.

And we cry holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in these words based on the epistles of the Apostle Paul:

Christ Jesus existed in the form of God –
for in Him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell.

*Although He existed in the form of God,
He did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped.*

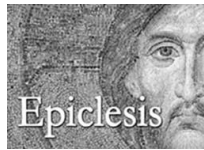
But He emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant,
being born in human likeness.

*And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself,
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.*

**For this reason God also highly exalted Him,
and bestowed on Him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee will bow,
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**



– from Colossians 1:19, 2:9; Philippians 2:5-11



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral Call to Confession:

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me Your paths.

*Lead me in Your truth, and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation.
For You I wait all day long.*

Be mindful of Your mercy, O LORD, and of Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for Your goodness' sake, O LORD!**

*For Your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt.*

**Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.**

– Psalm 25:1, 4-7, 11, 18

[Silence]

Agnus Dei

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

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

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.

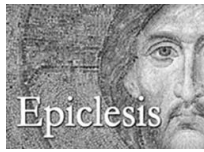
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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, hear God's steadfast and faithful promises:

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

*He leads the humble in what is right,
And teaches the humble His way.*



Who are those who fear the LORD?

He will instruct them in the way they should choose.
*The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him,
and He makes His covenant known to them.*

**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep His covenant and His decrees.**

– Psalm 25: 8-10, 12, 14

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Ancient Words

Holy words, long preserved, for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

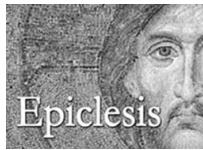
Chorus

Ancient words, ever true,
Changing me, changing you.
We have come with open hearts;
O, let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith, handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice; O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words, long preserved for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.

Martyrs' blood stains each page;
They have died for this faith.
Hear their cry through the years,
Heed these words and hold them dear.
Countless saints, most unknown, labored long, and alone.
Pressing on they won the prize, and gave us holy words of life.

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THE WORD

Philippians 2:1-13



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,

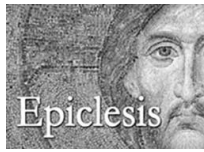
But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen.





Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the Light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hellbound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory; grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him. Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

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SENDING FORTH

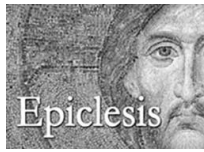
The Life of the Body

Benediction

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within His love.

And to Him be praise for His glorious reign,
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain:
Christ eternal, the King of kings!

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Benediction

Almighty God, as we go forth into the world
to love and serve the Lord, walking out our baptisms
in joy and faithfulness, grant that we—Your people—
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory,
that He may be known, worshiped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Now to Him who reigns far above all rule and authority
and power and dominion, and every name that is named,
not only in this age, but also in the age to come,
King of kings and Lord of lords,
be glory and honor, dominion and praise forever and ever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“The Word was with God in the beginning, and the Man was subject to the pain of death. The human nature wasn't eternal, and the divine nature wasn't mortal. All His other attributes are considered in the same way. For it wasn't the human nature that raised up Lazarus, nor was it the power that can't suffer who wept for him while he lay in the grave. The tears came from the Man, but the life came from the true Life. It wasn't the human nature that fed the thousands, nor was it all powerful strength that hurried to the fig tree. Who was weary from the journey, and who made the world exist by His word? What is the brightness of the glory, and what was pierced with the nails? What body was beaten during Passion Week, and what body is externally glorified? This much is clear: that the blows belong to the servant who was the Lord, and honor belongs to the Lord who was a servant. As a result, Christ's natures are unified and their respective attributes belong to both natures. Just as the Lord received the scars of the servant, the servant is glorified with the honor of the Lord. For this is why the cross is called the cross of the Lord of glory, and why every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

– Gregory of Nyssa

Image credits –p. 2: da Messina, *Salvator Mundi* (Savior of the World) detail, 1465;

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7;
Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

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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.

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