An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

October 4, 2026 (Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

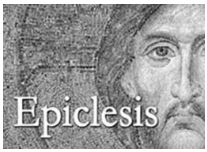
GATHERING

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.
**Day to day pours forth speech; night to night reveals knowledge.**
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
**Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,**
**and their words to the end of the world.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;
*The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*
The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
*The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.
*The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.*
They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
*By them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

**Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.**
**Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations;**
**I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever,**
**even to the end.** – from Psalm 19:1-11 and 119:89, 112






*Creation Sings the Father's Song*

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day,
Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow;
His breath upon this spinning globe;
He charts the eagle's flight,
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

*Refrain:*
Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing: "Hallelujah!"
Fill the earth with songs of worship,
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon His face;
The ageless One in time's embrace,
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally.

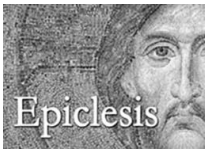
Creation longs for His return, when Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky, all heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme: The glory of our God and King!

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

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

O ye heights of heav'n, adore* Him;
Angel hosts, His prais*es sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before* Him




And extol our God* and King;
Let no tongue on earth be si*lent;
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore*.

Christ, to Thee with God the Fa*ther,
And, O Holy Ghost*, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiv*ing,
And unwearied prais*es be:
Honor, glory, and domin*ion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore*. A*men.



Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century; transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker. Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11th C. Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2015.

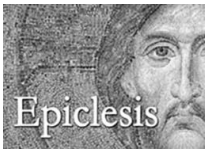
PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us hold fast the things we believe and profess:

Whatever things were gain to me
I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
*More than that, I count all things as loss*
*in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*
For His sake, I consider the former things as mere rubbish
in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him,
*Not having any righteousness of my own,*
*but the righteousness that comes from God through faith in Christ.*
**This is my goal:**
**to know Him and the power of His resurrection**
**and the fellowship of His sufferings,**
**being conformed to His death**
**so that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**
Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
*I press on toward the goal of the prize*
*of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

– from Philippians 3:7-14, 20-21




PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

But who can discern their own errors?
**Cleanse me from hidden faults.**

Keep Your servants from willful sins;
**Let them not rule over me.**
**Then I will be blameless,**
**and innocent of great transgression.**

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be pleasing to You, O LORD, our Rock and our Redeemer.

– from Psalm 19:12-14

[Silent confessions]

Almighty God, **to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Jesus Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me, a sinner.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

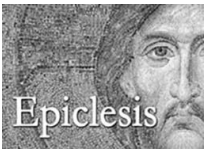
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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of God's forgiveness:
Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.
**But Christ suffered and died for us;**
**He was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us;**
**He reigns in power for us,**
**and He continues to intercede for us.**
**And nothing shall separate us from the love of God**
**which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

– based on Romans 8:34, 39

**Thanks be to God!**




*Passing of the Peace*

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

*Build My Life*

Worthy of every song we could ever sing;
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe;
We live for You, we live for You.

Jesus, the name above every other name;
Jesus, the only One who could ever save.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe;
We live for You, we live for You.

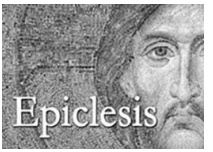
*Chorus*

Holy, there is no one like You,
There is none beside You.
Open up my eyes in wonder, and
Show me who You are, and
Fill me with Your heart, and
Lead me in Your love
To those around me.

*Bridge*

I will build my life upon Your love;
It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone,
And I will not be shaken.

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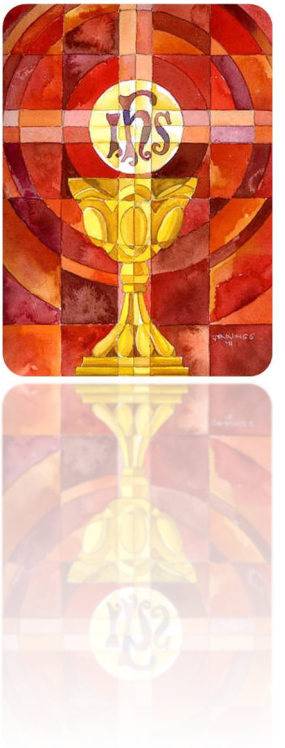



THE WORD

Philippians 3

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

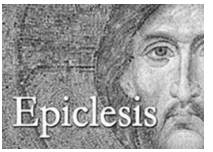


The Lord be with you!
**And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**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.**




*Knowing You*

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Chorus*
Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.

*Verse 2*
Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
To be found by You, and known as Yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn;
All surpassing gift of righteousness.

*Verse 3*
Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life,
And to know You in Your sufferings,
To become like You in Your death, my Lord;
So with You to live, and never die.

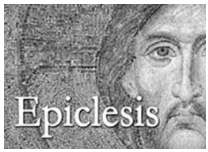
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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

*Doxology*

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.
Amen.

Doxology text from *Fourscore and Seven Psalms of David* (Geneva, 1561), *All People That On Earth Do Dwell*, vs. 4, attributed to William Kethe.
Hymn tune: OLD 100th, attrib. to Louis Bourgeois.




Benediction

Now, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord:
May Almighty God, who raised Jesus from the dead and exalted Him to the right hand of His throne of majesty on high, grant that you may know His resurrection power in your daily lives, and that you may look with joyful hope to that day when we shall see the Savior face to face and share in His glory. **Amen!**

**To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!**

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –***

"I am only intent on 'one thing' says Paul, 'in stretching forward to the things which are before.' But included in this 'one thing' he says, is 'forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' Forgetting the past things made him reach forward to the things ahead. So then, any who think they have accomplished it all and need no further perfecting can stop running. They have reached their goal. But those who think they are still far from the goal will never stop running. You should think like the latter, even if you perform ten thousand good deeds. For if Paul thought thus, after ten thousand deaths and so many dangers, how much more should we? . . . We should act like him, forget our successes, and throw them behind us. For runners don't think about how many laps they have finished, but how many are left. We, too, should think not about how we are advanced in holiness, but about how much farther we have to go. For how do we profit from what we have when we don't add what we lack? In addition, Paul didn't say, 'I don't think about,' but 'I don't even remember.' For we become eager when we diligently work toward what is left, when we forget everything else."

– Chrysostom

***Image credits –*** p. 3: Oldest known icon of *Christ Pantocrator* ("All-Powerful;" "Ruler of the World"), St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, c. 6th C.; p. 6: Mark Jennings, *Body and Blood,* contemp.

***Lectionary for next week***: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

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(Corner of Winding Way and Pasadena), Sacramento, CA 95841.
Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.
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