



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 9, 2011 (Ash Wednesday)

GATHERING

Let us worship God:

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world, through Him, might be saved.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake into the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

The Covenant Love of the Lord endures forever.

- from John 3:17 and Psalm 46:1-3

INVOCATION

Almighty God, out of Your love and mercy you breathed into dust the
breath of life, creating us to serve You and our neighbors.

You despise nothing you have made, and You forgive the sins of all
who are penitent.

**Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that, truly repenting of our sins,
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may obtain from You, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness,
through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

How Deep the Father's Love For Us



FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

PSALM 51:1-17

Refrain:

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God
(Create in me a clean heart, O God)
And renew a right spirit within me
(And renew a right spirit within me)
Cast me not away from Thy presence
And take not Thy holy spirit from me.

Carl F. Mueller (1892-1982)

Men: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
in Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Women: *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.*

Men: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

Women: *Against You only have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your
sight; and so You are justified when you speak,
and upright in Your judgment.*

Refrain

Men: Surely, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and a sinner from my mother's womb.

Women: *Yet behold, You desire truth deep within me,
and in the hidden places You will make me know wisdom.*

Men: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Women: *Make me to hear joy and gladness,
that the bones You have broken may rejoice.*

Men: Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out my iniquities.

Refrain



Men: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and sustain me with a willing spirit.

*Women: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
and sinners will turn back to You.*

Men: Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God of my salvation;
then my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

*Women: O Lord, open my lips,
that my mouth may declare Your praise.*

Men: For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

*Women: The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.*

Refrain

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS (I)

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Lord, Have Mercy

CCLI Song No. 2989578; ©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Steve Merkel

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS (II)

THIRD LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TIME OF TEACHING

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS (III)

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE



LITANY OF PENITENCE

**Holy and merciful God, we confess to You and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and
deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves;
we have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to Your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ;
we have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives;

We confess to You, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to You, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves;

We confess to You, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work;

We confess to You, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us;

We confess to You, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done,
for our neglect of human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

Accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from
us;

Accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let Your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God, for Your mercy is great.



IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the earth.
Grant that these ashes may be to us
a sign of our mortality and penitence,
so we may remember that only by Your gracious gift
are we given eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Here is Love

Public Domain. William Rees (vs. 1-2); transl. from Welsh by William Edwards (1900) verses
3-4 attributed to William Williams (adapted by Ellen Koehler); Music: Robert Lowry, 1876.

THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

– Matthew 11:28, 29; John 6:35, 37; Matt. 5:6

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

...

And so, with Your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



(sung)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest.**

Setting: Peter Scholtes ©1966 F.E.L. Publications
Additional lyric setting: Ellen Koehler 2011

. . .

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

(sung)

**Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.**

. . .

Give us strength to serve You faithfully until the promised day
of resurrection, when, with the redeemed of all the ages,
we will feast with You at His heavenly table.

**Through Christ, all glory and honor are Yours,
almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit
in the holy church, now and forever.
Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed by Your Name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)

Agnus Dei

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SENDING FORTH

Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.



To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb, who is the Great “I Am,”
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

Public domain. American Folk Hymn; Music: William Walker’s *Southern Harmony*, 1835.
Arr. Eric H. Thiman ©1961 Broadman Press

Benediction:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete,
without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He who calls you is faithful, and He also will do it. **Amen.**
— from 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, NRSV

Go forth into the world in the strength of God’s mercy
to live and to serve in newness of life.
May Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven, bless and keep you.

Amen.

May the Lamb of God who laid down His life for all,
graciously smile upon you.

Amen.

May the Lord God order all your days and deeds in peace.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

All depart in silence.

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
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.