



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

June 5, 2011 (Ascension of the Lord)

GATHERING

The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty
and girded with strength.

His throne is established from of old;

He is from everlasting.

O clap your hands, all peoples;

Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the Lord, the Most High is awesome,
a great King over all the earth.**

He sits on His holy throne.

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

— from Psalms 47 and 93



The Ascension, Harry Anderson, Contemporary



Rejoice the Lord is King

Rejoice the Lord is King; Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, rejoice –
The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love.
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, rejoice – The Lord is King!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, rejoice – The Lord is King!

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King thro' all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side –
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me:
Thy praise and glory shall not fail thro' out eternity.

Public domain. Text: Matthew Bridges (vs. 1, 2, 4); Godfrey Thring (vs. 3).
Music: George J. Elvey (Diademata)



PROFESSION OF FAITH

**This is the gospel, which we received, by which we were saved,
and in which we stand:**

**Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day,
and appeared to many faithful witnesses.**

Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

**In Him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.**

*All things have been created through Him and for Him,
and in Him all things hold together.*

**He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that He might come to have first place in everything.**

And God has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

*For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through
Him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in
heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.*

**This is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might,
which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from
the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly
places, 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.**

– from 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 1:19-23

Crown Him With Many Crowns (verse 3)

Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o'er the grave;
Who rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned Him Lord of all. Yet, we confess that we have not always bowed before Him, and have not always acknowledged His rule in our lives. We have too easily followed the ways of this world, and have failed to glorify Him in our lives. Forgive us, and raise us from sin that we may be Your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is the head of the church, His body.

Amen.

[Silent confessions]

Agnus Dei

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.
Almighty God and Father. Amen.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news of the gospel:

We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. In Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

— based on 1 John 2:1-2

TIME OF OFFERING

Prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

Lord God, heavenly King, we offer these our gifts as a sign of love, devotion, and worship. Through these, as through our praises, we acknowledge that you are our sovereign and covenant Lord.

My Lips will Praise You

My lips will praise You,
For You are holy.
My voice will ever
rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You,
For You are lovely,
And You have called me
To become Your own.

I am Your own,
And I will worship You alone.
I am Your own,
I am Your child.
I am Your own,
And I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own,
And I will love You.

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THE WORD

Acts 17:22-31

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)



The Ascension, Pete Rodgers, 1963

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 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.

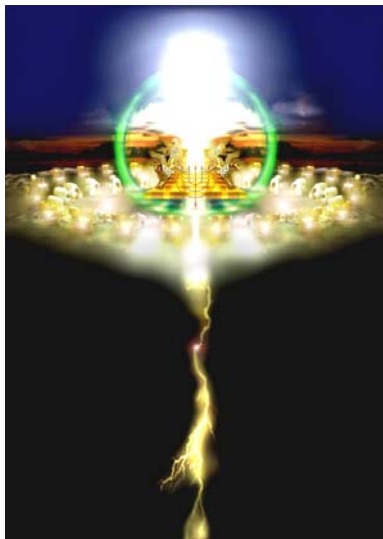
Before the Throne of God Above

Before the Throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose Name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.



When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

Before Him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am,
The King of glory and of grace:
One in Himself I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His Blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God.



The Throne in Heaven, David Miles, contemp

Public Domain. Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Gaelic hymn tune

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Crown Him With Many Crowns (verse 4)

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n! One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit thro' Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died.
Be Thou, O Lord, thro' endless days adored and magnified!

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Music: George J. Elvey (Diademata)



Benediction:

Jesus Christ, this man who is God, participated in our humanity to die for us and to be resurrected for us, and He now has ascended to the very throne of God to continually represent us to the Father.

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

We have a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven;

and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

He who did everything that ever needed to be done to save us now continually stands before the Father interceding for us!

Thanks be to God: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Adapted from Hebrews 7 and 8, and Robert Webber,
Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year

A thought about worship...

“Eating and drinking at the Lord’s Table is an experience of God’s work of salvation in Jesus Christ. It proclaims the Gospel through dramatization. It enacts the death and resurrection of Christ in such a way that the senses are engaged [as] the worshiper . . . sees, tastes, smells, and experiences the symbol of Christ’s death in the bread and wine. In this way, Christ is communicated to the whole person, bringing healing to body, soul, and spirit.” Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God’s Mighty Deeds of Salvation* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992, 79.)

Lectionary readings for next week:

Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23; John 7:37-39

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.