



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

February 22, 2012 (Ash Wednesday)

GATHERING

Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

We are gathered to worship God in spirit and in truth.

LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Teach us, LORD, to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your majesty to their children.

Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us. And establish the work of our hands for us. Yes, establish the work of our hands.

The Covenant Love of the Lord endures forever.

— from Psalm 90





How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss! The Father turns His face away.
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there, until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything; no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

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INVOCATION

Almighty and merciful God, You called us forth from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. You claimed us for Christ in the waters of our baptisms. You despise nothing You have made, and You forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Look upon us as and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

**Create and make 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.**

PSALM 51:1-17



Refrain:

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Carl F. Mueller (1892-1982)

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

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.*

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

*W: 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.*

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

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

Refrain

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Refrain



FIRST LESSON: Galatians 5:16-21

THE JOURNEY OF LENT (I): PUTTING OFF THE ACTS OF THE SINFUL NATURE

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

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.



God's Promise to Abram, James Tissot, c.1900



Lord, Have Mercy

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken,
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim.
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom;
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

Chorus:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy on me.

Verse 2:

I have built an altar where I've worshipped things of man;
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You.
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing;
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again.

Verse 3:

I have longed to know You, and all Your tender mercies,
Like a river of forgiveness, ever flowing without end.
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence,
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night.

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SECOND LESSON: Galatians 5:22-25

THE JOURNEY OF LENT (II): PUTTING ON THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

TIME OF TEACHING



THE TABLE

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.

(Leader)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Christ has died,

Christ has 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 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



We Behold You (Fraction Anthem)

With all of the saints and angels,
We gather before You.
Our hearts filled with thankfulness,
We lift up Your holy Name.
With all who have gone before us,
We feast at Your table.
We eat of Your body and
Drink of Your holy blood.

And we behold You, and we behold You
Lamb of God, slain for our sins.
(Repeat)

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THIRD LESSON: Matthew 26:33-36; John 15:4-11

THE JOURNEY OF LENT (III): TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

CONSIDER THE CROSS

Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Redeemer Saviour Friend

Chris Springer and Darrell Evans
©1999 Integrity's Hosanna! Music



SENDING FORTH

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake, He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

On this journey of Lent, may we be reconciled.

As we work together with Him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!

On this journey of Lent, may we accept the grace of God.

Therefore, live as servants of God, approved and commended in Christ: through great endurance; in afflictions and hardships; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; –

On this journey of Lent, may we so live.

With weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in ill repute and good repute; as unknown, yet well-known and accepted in Him; dying to self, yet alive in Him; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**On this journey of Lent, may we take up the cross of Christ
as we depart now in peace and in silence.**

– based on 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

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.

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