



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

January 1, 2012 (Renewal of the Covenant)

## GATHERING

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

You have set Your glory above the heavens.

**From the praises of children and infants You have established strength.**

When I consider the heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which You have ordained;

**What are we, that You are mindful of us and that You care for us?**

Yet You have made us a little lower than the angels, crowned us with  
glory and honor, and given us dominion over the works of Your hands.

**O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

— from Psalm 8

## *Let it Rise*

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;  
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;  
Let the praises of the King rise among us;  
Let it rise.  
Oh, let it rise; Oh, let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;  
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;  
Let the joy of the King rise among us;  
Let it rise.

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Maranatha Praise, Inc.; Holland Davis



Abraham, Robert H. Flores, 1999



*Holy is the Lord God Almighty*

*Bridge*

It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown.  
It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown:

*Pre-chorus*

And together we sing; Ev'ryone sing:

*Chorus*

Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
The earth is filled with His glory.  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
The earth is filled with His glory,  
The earth is filled with His glory.

*Verse*

We stand and lift up our hands,  
For the joy of the Lord is our strength.  
We bow down and worship Him now;  
How great, how awesome is He.

*Chorus*

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

In you, eternal Father, and through your Son, Jesus Christ, we find the beginning and end of all things. In Him we find hope, forgiveness, and courage for new beginnings.

**Let then, O God, the fresh winds of your Spirit sweep into our lives this day, so that these acts of worship may become a time of renewal and rededication to your service. Amen.**



### *Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;  
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.  
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for my fight,  
Thou my whole armor, and Thou my true might.  
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower.  
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;  
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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### PROFESSION OF FAITH

God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ –

**For by grace we have been saved –**

And raised us up together with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**For be grace we have been saved through faith; and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them.**

– Ephesians 2:4-10



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.**

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.**

*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.

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.





## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Now the message that we have heard from God's Son and announce is this: God is light, and there is no darkness at all in Him.

*If we walk in the light, just as He is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

— from 1 John 1:5-9

## TIME OF OFFERING

*Meditation:* Loving Lord, with joy and thanksgiving we acknowledge Your sovereignty. You are the Artist, the Master Potter of our lives. Fashion our hearts, Lord. Write your name in the clay. Accept, we pray, the offerings we bring as worship to you. Take all we are, and all we have. We are yours forever.

## *Paint Your Picture*

Pick me up like a paintbrush, God, dip it in the colors of my life.  
Paint Your picture, Father, fashion a heart that is wholly Yours.

Take Your fingers, God, Master Potter, Come mold the clay.  
Tell Your story, as You mold me,  
Fashion a heart that is wholly Yours.

And write Your name, write Your name, in the clay.  
And sign Your name, sign Your name on the picture.

Take all I am, take all I have, for I am Yours forever, Forever

So come write Your name, write Your name, in the clay.  
Come sign Your name, sign Your name, on the picture.

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## THE WORD

Exodus 24  
Nehemiah 8

## THE COVENANT

Collect:

**Father, You have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ as Mediator of a new covenant. Give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Leader:*

In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him.

**We stand within this covenant and we bear his name.**

On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God.

**Today, therefore, we have met to renew the covenant which binds us to God.**

Let us claim the covenant God has made with his people, and accept the yoke of Christ. To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ himself is our only reward.

**We take on the Yoke of Christ our guide.**

Christ has many tasks to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests; others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves.

**We take on the tasks of Christ our reward.**

Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore let us dedicate ourselves anew to this covenant with God. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.



***People (with hands extended and palms upward):***

**I give myself completely to You, O God.**

**Assign me to my place in Your creation.**

**Let me suffer for you.**

**Give me the work You would have me do.**

**Give me many tasks or have me step aside while You call others.**

**Put me forward or humble me.**

**Give me riches or let me live in poverty.**

**I freely give all that I am and have to You.**

**And now, holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,**

**You are mine and I am Yours. So be it.**

**May this Covenant made on earth continue for all eternity. Amen**

#### THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

*The Lord's Prayer (sung)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav'n.

Provide each day our daily needs;

Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;

And Thine is the power, forever and ever;

And Thine is the glory, now and forever. Amen, amen, amen.

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*Dwell*

Dwell in the midst of us; come and dwell in this place.

Dwell in the midst of us; come and have Your way.

Dwell in the midst of us; wipe all the tears from our faces.

Dwell in the midst of us; You can have Your way

Not our will but Yours be done; Come and change us.

Not our will but Yours be done; Come sustain us.



You can have Your way, oh Lord; You can have Your way.  
You can have Your way, oh Lord; You can have Your way

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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Take My Life*

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Your feet its treasure store.  
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

#### *Chorus:*

Here am I, all of me; Take my life, it's all for Thee.

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Benediction: May the God who established a covenant with those who seek to enter the kingdom be always present with you. **Amen.**

May Jesus Christ, who sealed the new covenant with His sacrifice on the cross, bring you peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit of God guide your life, now and forever. **Amen.**

Now, go in peace to love and serve God and your neighbor in all that you do. **Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*A thought about worship...*—“Christians must go back to the Garden of Eden and reclaim God’s original purposes for creatures and creation. We are the image-bearers of God, and we have been given the task of making this world the theatre of God’s glory. It is not only the inner chamber of the heart that should glow with the presence of God, but our culture, too – our cities, our civilization, the whole of life.” (Robert E. Webber, *Who Gets to Narrate the World? Contending for the Christian Story in an Age of Rivals* [Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008], 71.

**Lectionary for next week:** Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

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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