



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

April 8, 2012 (Resurrection of the Lord)

PRELUDE

The Easter Song

Anne Herring, ©1974 Latter Rain Music

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus Won It All

Miriam Webster, ©2001 Hillsong Publishing



The Morning of the Resurrection,
Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones,
1882

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His covenant love endures forever.

**The LORD is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His covenant love endures forever.

**I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His covenant love endures forever.

**Open the gates of righteousness;
we shall enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His covenant love endures forever.

**The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone;
This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes!**

**This is the day the LORD has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

— from Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24



Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King. Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save. Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done. Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise. Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Public domain. Text: Charles Wesley. Music: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Lord, open our lips

and our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

Alleluia. The lovingkindness of the Lord is everlasting.

Come, let us adore Him. **Alleluia.**

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Hymns of praise, then, let us sing; Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King; Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave; Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save; Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above; Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host; Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost; Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; transl. in *Lyra Davidica*; 1708 (altered); verse 3, Charles Wesley.
Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1817.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us affirm together the testimony of the apostle Peter:

God shows no partiality:

But in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is accepted by Him.

This is the message God sent, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

And yet they put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree.

But God raised Him to life on the third day and revealed Him to those who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.

He is the One ordained by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

Of Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.

—based on Acts 10:34-43

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.





PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by His resurrection You destroyed the power of sin and death. Yet we confess that we do not always live as Your redeemed covenant people.

We have not done Your will. [silence]

We have rebelled against Your love. [silence]

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. [silence]

Forgive us, we pray. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy Christ's raising from the dead, may so die daily to sin that we may evermore live with Him in the joy of His resurrection, walking in Your ways to the glory of Your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here the good news of God's salvation:

God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that, freed from sins, we might live for righteousness. For by His wound we have been healed.

In Christ, we are forgiven, and have peace with God through Him!

Thanks be to God!

— from Romans 5:1,8; 1 Peter 2:24

How Deep the Father's Love For Us (verse 3)

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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TIME OF OFFERING

Almighty God, we wonder anew at Your goodness. All we are and all we have are gifts from Your hand and signs of Your lovingkindness.

With joy, we bring Your tithes and our offerings as an expression of our worship, gratitude and covenant faithfulness. We come to the wonderful cross; our whole lives we lay down before You.

The Wonder of Your Cross

The wonder of Your cross shall be our meditation,
To gather in that shadow as the sun went down;
To weep with those who thought that You were leaving,
You were leaving, Jesus;
The humble King who never wore an earthly crown.

To steal away at night when they took down Your body,
With love and tears to leave You in a borrowed grave;
To go with Mary to that place they laid You,
Where they laid You, Jesus;
And in the morning find the stone was rolled away.

Chorus

The cross, O the wonderful cross;
What glory, what vict'ry I've found;
I'll come to the wonderful cross
And my whole life I lay down.

Were heaven's praises silent in those hours of darkness?
Your Holy Spirit brooding 'round that empty throne?
Until the declaration, 'He is risen.'
You are risen, Jesus;
He is not dead; behold, He lives forevermore!

Chorus

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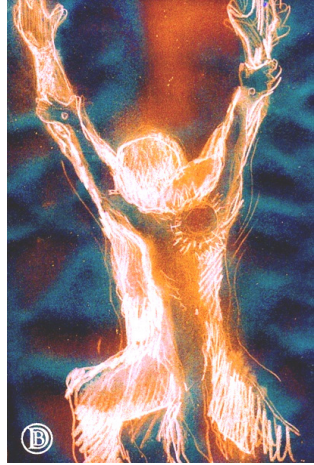


THE WORD

Exodus 12:1-14

Mark 14:22-36, 15:22-23

John 19:28-30, 20:1-18



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Resurrection of the Christ, Daniel Bonnell

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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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Jesus is Lord

“Jesus is Lord,” the cry that echoes through creation;
Resplendent pow’r, eternal Word, our Rock.
The Son of God, the King, whose glory fills the heavens,
Yet bids us come to taste this living bread.

Jesus is Lord, whose voice sustains the stars and planets;
Yet, in His wisdom, laid aside His crown.
Jesus, the man who washed our feet, who bore our suff’ring,
Became a curse to bring salvation’s plan.

Jesus is Lord, the tomb is gloriously empty!
Not even death could crush this King of love!
The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we’re forgiven,
And we can run into the arms of God.

“Jesus is Lord,” a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,
As He returns, and ev’ry knee bows low.
Then ev’ry eye and ev’ry heart will see His glory;
The Judge of all will take His children home.

CCLI Song No.3992447; ©2003 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Christ the Lord is Risen Today (verse 4)

Soar we now where Christ has led. Alleluia!
Foll’wing our exalted Head. Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise. Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

Text: Charles Wesley. Music: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708



Benediction:

Easter Day has come to remind us that in Jesus Christ, all of God's promises have been fulfilled.

We remember the promises God made to Abraham.

The risen savior, Jesus Christ, is the culmination of the covenants God cut with His servants of old.

We remember the covenants God made to Moses and David.

Through the ultimate sacrifice of our Passover Lamb we have been adopted into the family of God.

We remember that Jesus drained death's cup that all people may enter in to receive the life of God.

Dead, buried, raised to life on the third day, Christ ascended to the Father and there intercedes for us as the ultimate mediator of the covenant.

We look forward to the day He comes again in glory!

Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – bless you now and forever, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the ancient Fathers –

“What sort of garland did Christ Jesus. . . submit to on behalf of humanity? One made of thorns and thistles—a symbol of our sins, produced by the soil of the flesh. However, the power of the cross removed these thorns, blunting death's every sting in the Lord's enduring head. Yes, even beyond this symbol, contempt, shame, disgrace, and fierce cruelty disfigured and lacerated the Lord's temples. This was so that now you might be crowned with laurel, myrtle, olive, and any famous branch—with roses too—and both kinds of lily, violets of all sorts, and perhaps with gems and gold—garlands that will rival even the crown Christ obtained afterwards. For after the gall, He tasted the honeycomb. He was not greeted in heaven as the King of Glory until He had been condemned to the cross as King of the Jews. The Father first made Him a little lower than the angels for a time and then crowned Him with glory and honor. If you owe your own head to Him for these things, repay it if you can; He presented His for yours. Otherwise, don't be crowned with flowers at all; if you can't be crowned with thorns, you may never be crowned with flowers.” – Tertullian

Lectionary for next week: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113

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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