



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

April 21, 2013 (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The grave is empty!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed! The Lamb is on the throne!

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before Him with joyful singing.**

Know that the LORD Himself is God.

It is He who made us and not we ourselves.

We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise;

Give thanks to Him and bless His name.

For the LORD is good:

**His lovingkindness is everlasting;
and His faithfulness continues to all generations.**

— Psalm 100





Let the Peoples Praise

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Only One, only One worthy (3x)
Worthy is the Lamb.

Glory to the Righteous One (3x)
From the ends of the earth we hear songs.
(Hallelujah! The Lamb has won).

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

We Fall Down

We fall down, we lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus;
The greatness of mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus.

And we cry holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Jesus declared, I am the Good Shepherd;
The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd,
and I know My own and My own know Me,
even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father;
and I lay down My life for the sheep.
My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and they follow Me;
and I give eternal life to them,
and they will never perish;
and no one will snatch them out of My hand.
I and the Father are one.

– John 10:11, 14-15, 27-30

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

– Psalm 23



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

To You, O Lord, our Rock, we call.

Hear the voice of our supplications when we cry to You for mercy,

When we lift up our hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;

Shepherd them also, and carry them forever.

– from Psalm 28:1-2, 9

[Silent confessions]

O Lord, both Good Shepherd and Lamb of God, You tenderly gather us and carry us with Your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we tend to wander from You, following our own ways, ignoring Your voice, fearful of the truth. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us anew and restore our souls by Your redeeming love. Guide our paths in Your ways, that our lives may be to the praise of Your glory, always. Amen.

Holy, Holy Lamb

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,

Who takes away the sin of the world,

Holy, holy Lamb.

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,

He's worthy of all worship and praise:

Holy, holy Lamb.

Cantor:

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne;

Salvation belongs to our God, and unto the Lamb.

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,

Who takes away the sin of the world,

Holy, holy Lamb.

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,

He's worthy of all worship and praise: Holy, holy Lamb.

CCLI Song #1197052 ©1993 Maranatha! Music. Dan Burgess.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, this is the good news of God's love and salvation:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins in His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

– Revelation 1:4-5

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

**Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and might
be to our God forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

– Revelation 7:10,12

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise:

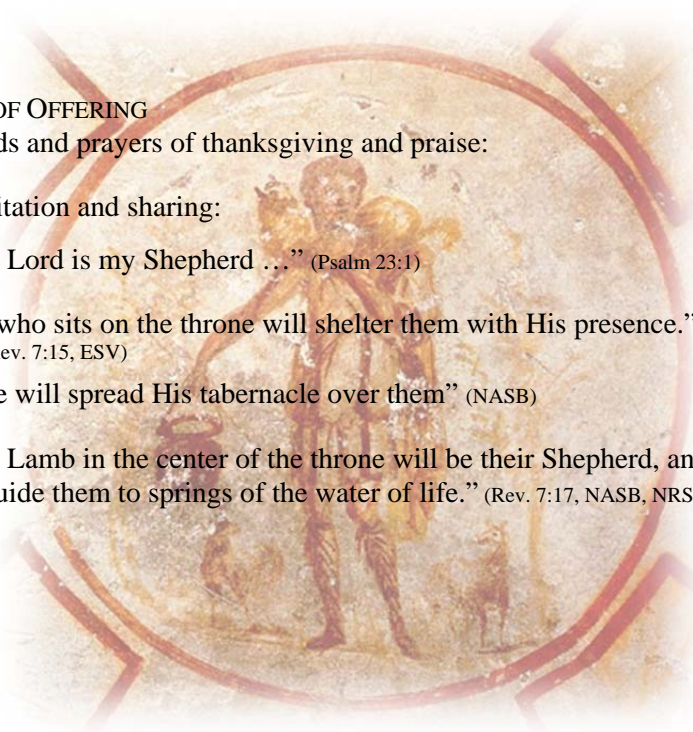
Meditation and sharing:

“The Lord is my Shepherd ...” (Psalm 23:1)

“He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence.”
(Rev. 7:15, ESV)

“He will spread His tabernacle over them” (NASB)

“The Lamb in the center of the throne will be their Shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life.” (Rev. 7:17, NASB, NRSV)





You Have Been Good

O Lord, You have been good;
You have been faithful to all generations.
O Lord, Your steadfast love
And tender mercy have been our salvation.

For by Your hand we have been fed,
And by Your Spirit we have been led.
O Lord, You have been good;
You have been faithful to all generations.

For by Your hand we have been fed,
And by Your Spirit we have been led.
O Lord, Almighty God,
Father unchanging, upright and holy.

O Lord, You have been good;
You have been faithful, You have been good.

CCLI Song #59452 ©1988 Ariose Music. Twila Paris.

THE WORD

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

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 (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**

Salvation Belongs to Our God

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits upon the throne,
And unto the Lamb;
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honor and power and strength –

Chorus

Be to our God forever and ever; be to our God forever and ever;
Be to our God forever and ever, amen!

And we the redeemed shall be strong, in purpose and unity,
Declaring aloud: Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honor and power and strength –

CCLI Song #24092 ©1985 Restoration Music, Ltd. Adrian Howard and Pat Turner

Agnus Dei

Alleluia, alleluia, for our Lord God Almighty reigns. (repeat)
Alleluia. Holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb. (repeat) You are holy. Holy are You, Lord God
Almighty. Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

CCLI Song #626713 © 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music; Michael W. Smith

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



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 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!

Public domain. Text: Matthew Bridges; Music: George J. Elvey (DIADEMATA)

Benediction:

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.
Because He has triumphed over death, and He lives and reigns, the
Lamb upon His throne, you also live.

Alleluia! Amen!

Since we have been raised with Christ, let us now go forth as His
witnesses, loving and serving Him in the joy and victorious power of
His resurrection.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

"To those who conquer, God says, "I will give a crown of life." So be faithful to the point of death, and fight the good fight. The apostle Paul felt confident that this crown had been laid up for him. The angel also receives a crown of victory as he rides on a white horse to conquer. Another is adorned with an encircling rainbow of beautiful colors—a heavenly meadow. Similarly, the elders sit around crowned, too, with golden crowns, and the Son of Man glimmers above the clouds. If these things merely appear in the vision of John, what will it really be like when they are actually displayed? Look at the crowns. Inhale the fragrances. Why do you condemn the brow destined for a crown to a little garland or a twisted headband? For Christ Jesus has even made us kings for God, His Father.."

– Tertullian

Lectionary for next week: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 12:31-35

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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