



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 18, 2014 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

*Let us come before Him with thanksgiving
and extol Him with music and song.*

The LORD is my rock and my salvation, my shield and fortress.

I will call upon the LORD, who alone is worthy to be praised.

For who is God, but the LORD?

And who is a rock, except our God?

The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,

and exalted be the God of my salvation!

— from Psalms 18 and 95:1-2



Martyrdom of Saint Stephen, Bernardo Carallino c. 1645



A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe –
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cru-el hate,
On earth is not His equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He –
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him –
His rage we can endure, For lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also –
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.

Public Domain. Martin Luther; translated by Frederick H. Hedge; based on Psalm 46

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.



Refrain

This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Public domain. Words, Fanny Crosby, 1873; Music, Phoebe P. Knapp.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Coming to Him as to a living stone,
rejected by men, but chosen and precious in the sight of God;
*We also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house,
a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.*

For in Scripture it says,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen and
precious; and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

To us then who believe, this stone is precious. — from 1 Peter 2:4-7a

All To Us

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation, You are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You, Jesus. We believe; You’re all to us.
(Repeat)

Chorus:

Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You’re all to us.

Only Son of God, sent from heaven; hope and mercy at the cross.
You are ev’rything, You’re the promise; Jesus, You are all to us.

CCLI Song #5869860 ©2010 worshipttogether.com songs. Chris Tomlin/Jesse Reeves/Matt
Maher/Matt Redman



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

In You, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in Your righteousness.

*Incline Your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;
be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.*

**You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for Your name's sake lead me and guide me.**

Take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for You are my refuge.

*Into Your hand I commit my spirit;
You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.*

**You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for Your name's sake lead me and guide me.**

– Psalm 31:1-5

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

[Silent Confessions]

(sung):

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
God, the well-spring of life.

©1982 Les Presses de Taizé



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own possession, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

People of God,

all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ.

In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made to be a holy community united in faith. Thanks be to God!

– based on 1 Peter 2:9-10

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

The Potter's Hand

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Saviour,
I know for sure –
All of my days are held in Your hand,
Crafted into Your perfect plan.

You gently call me into Your presence,
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit;
Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life
Through Your eyes.

I'm captured by Your holy calling;
Set me apart,
I know You're drawing me to Yourself.
Lead me, Lord, I pray.

Take me, mold me, use me, fill me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.

CCLI Song # 2449771. © 1997 Wondrous Worship. Darlene Zschech
CCLI License # 3097801



THE WORD

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

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 us 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



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 #3992447 ©2003 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

All To Us (reprise)

When this passing world is over,
We will see You face to face,
And forever we will worship;
Jesus, You are all to us.

Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You’re all to us.



Benediction

Beloved, the glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of Jesus Christ overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Now, as He appeared to Stephen in His glory, the righteous Judge of all and the source of true hope and security, so may our encounter with the living Christ compel us to go forth into the world, giving witness to what we have seen and believed, to love and serve the Lord.

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the ancient Fathers –

“Whatever two people have agreed on and asked for on earth will be done for them. For Christ says, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.’ Imagine when an entire congregation is gathered in the name of the Lord. . . So then, make yourselves worthy so that Christ will be in your midst. For where peace is, there Christ is because Christ is Peace. And where righteousness is, Christ is there because Christ is Righteousness. Let Him be in the midst of you, so that you can see Him. Otherwise it will be said to you, ‘There standeth One in the midst of you, whom ye see not.’ The Jews didn’t see Him whom they didn’t believe in. We see Him by our devotion and notice Him by faith. Therefore, let Him stand in your midst. Then the heavens that declare God’s glory will be opened to you and you will be able to do His will and work His works. As the heavens opened to Stephen, they will open to those who see Jesus. For Stephen said, ‘Behold I see the heavens opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.’ Jesus was standing as his advocate. He was standing as though He was anxious to help His athlete Stephen in his battle. He was standing as though He was ready to crown His martyr.”

– Ambrose

Lectionary for next week: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3: 13-22;
John 14:15-21

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.

©2014 E.K