



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 20, 2012 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)
Ascension of the Lord

GATHERING

The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty
and girded with strength.

**His throne is established from of old;
He is from everlasting.**

O clap your hands, all peoples;
Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is awesome,
a great King over all the earth.**

He sits on His holy throne.

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

— from Psalm 47 and 93



Ascension, Giotto di Bondone, 1306



Rejoice the Lord is King

Rejoice the Lord is King; Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love.
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing
New songs throughout the world shall ring. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Christ, by a road before untrod
Ascendeth to the throne of God. Alleluia ...

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One. Alleluia ...

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735), *Hymnum canamus Domino*; translated from Latin to English
by Benjamin Webb, 1854. Hymn tune: Lasst uns erfreuen, Peter von Brachel, 1623.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ: He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him;

In love, He predestined us to adoption as His children, in accordance with His pleasure and His will;

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to His grace;

He has made known to us the mystery of His will, to bring all things in heaven and on earth into unity in Christ;

Having believed in Him, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, the guarantee of our inheritance in Him, to the praise of His glory.

In the exceeding greatness of His power, He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

He has put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

– from Ephesians 1:3-23

A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing

O grant us thitherward to tend
And with unwearied hearts ascend, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou
As is our faith, art seated now. Alleluia ...

Bede/Webb/Brachel



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

God demonstrated His own love for us in this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace,

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

– Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16

Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from death to life, and have seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places that He might fill all things. Yet, we confess that we have not always bowed before Him, and have not always acknowledged His rule. We have not always followed His leading, and have failed to glorify Him in our lives. Forgive us, and raise us from sin that we may be Your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is the head of the church, His body. Amen.

[Silence]

Agnus Dei

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.
Almighty God and Father. Amen.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of our pardon in His grace:

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

By grace we have been saved –

And He raised us up 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 exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

— Ephesians 2:4-7

TIME OF OFFERING

Sovereign Lord, we acknowledge You today as our God and King. We acknowledge that all we are, and all we have, has come from Your gracious hand. In this time of worshipful giving of Your tithes and our offerings, we offer ourselves to You anew. It's all about You, Jesus. You alone are God, and we surrender to Your ways.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul;
All consuming fire is in Your gaze.
Jesus, I want You to know
I will follow You all my days.
For no one else in history is like You,
And history itself belongs to You;
Alpha and Omega, You have loved me,
And I will share eternity with You.

It's all about You, Jesus.
And all this is for You,
For Your glory and Your fame.
It's not about me,
As if You should do things my way;
You alone are God
And I surrender to Your ways.



THE WORD

Acts 1:1-11

Luke 24:44-53

Matthew 28:16-20



The Ascension, Peter Rogers, 1963

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 (sung)

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed by Your Name;
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)



Before the Throne of God Above

Before the Throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose Name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

Before Him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am,
The King of glory and of grace:
One in Himself I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His Blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God.



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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Go Ye Therefore

Go ye therefore, teach all nations,
Baptizing them in the name of the Lord. (repeat)

Go ye therefore, teach all nations
All He commands in the name of the Lord. (repeat)

And Lo, I am with You always, even until the end of the world.
Go in My name, I am with you, until the end of the world.

Go ye therefore, He is with you, even until the end of the world.
(repeat)

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Benediction:

Jesus Christ, this man who is God, participated in our humanity to die for us and to be resurrected for us;

And He has ascended to the very throne of God, where He continually represents us before the Father.

And He has promised to be with us always, even to the very end of the age. Therefore, we can go forth, in the strength and confidence of this promise, into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship...

“We are the disciples whom Jesus has called . . . to turn away from self-love and self-service, to abandon a life lived for self-gratification or self-glory, and to serve God as an epiphany of the self-giving service of Jesus. True spirituality longs for, seeks for, and wills this abandonment of self so that Christ may become present through our work, our lives, and our relationships, manifesting his power.” Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004, 88.)

Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; John 16:4b-15

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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