



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

April 20, 2014 (Resurrection of the Lord)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Easter Song

Anne Herring, ©1974 Latter Rain Music

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever.

**In our anguish we cried to the LORD,
the LORD answered us and set us free.**

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

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

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

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

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, 5, 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, 1739. Music: from *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.

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

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); this verse, 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

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!



Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. in *Lyra Davidica*;
1708 (altered); this verse, Charles Wesley.

Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1817.



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.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here is the good news of God's salvation and His promise of pardon:

God demonstrates His own love for us in this:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light! For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him
God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth
or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

Thanks be to God!

— from Romans 5:8 and Colossians 1:12-20

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Almighty God, we wonder anew at Your goodness and steadfast love.
**With grateful hearts, we bring Your tithes and our offerings as
expressions of our worship and reflections of Your steadfast love.
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!

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THE WORD

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

Matthew 28:1-10

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 our thanks and praise.

...

Therefore with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we glorify and magnify your Holy Name, evermore praising you and saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

Come now, let us join the feast!

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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In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on the cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world, by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!



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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!

Benediction:

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord.
Because He lives, and has triumphed over death, you also live.

Alleluia! Amen.

Beloved, we have been raised with Christ; we remember that our journey is from death to life. May His resurrection bring you all joy and perseverance so that as you remember and walk out your baptisms you may also abound in hope.

Alleluia! Amen.

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

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. . . . This was so that now you might be crowned with laurel, myrtle, olive, and any famous branch . . . 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 2:1-14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 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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