



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

January 12, 2014 (First Sunday of Epiphany)

*The Baptism of the Lord*

## GATHERING

Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Give unto the LORD the glory due His name;

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

**The voice of the LORD is powerful;**

**The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

**In His temple all say, "Glory!"**

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood,

Yes, the LORD sits enthroned as King forever.

**Splendor and majesty are before Him,**

**Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.**

The LORD will give strength to His people;

**The LORD will bless His people with peace.**

Come, let us magnify the LORD and exalt His name together.





### *In the Beauty of Holiness*

In the beauty of holiness  
We see You, Son of righteousness,  
So we bring all that we possess  
To lay at Your feet.  
In the place where Your glory shines,  
Jesus lover of all mankind,  
You have drawn us with love divine  
To make us complete.

#### *Chorus*

So I pause at Your gates once more,  
As my heart and my spirit soar,  
And I wish I could love You more:  
My God and my King!

Is there tribute that I could bring,  
Was there ever a song to sing,  
That could ever express, my King,  
The work that You've done?  
Could I ever conceive of this,  
All the depths and the heights and breadth,  
Of the riches I now possess  
Because of Your love?

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### INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

(sung)

So I pause at Your gates once more,  
As my heart and my spirit soar,  
And I wish I could love You more:  
My God and my King!



*Come Thou, Almighty King (verse 4)*

To Thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be,  
Hence evermore; Thy sov'reign majesty may we in glory see,  
And to eternity love and adore.

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## 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.

**This message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:**

**that 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



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The call and promise of the Lord:

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

*Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.*

– Ezekiel 36:25-27

[Silent confessions]



**Eternal and merciful God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, you proclaimed him to be Your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all we who have been born of water and the Spirit may keep the covenant we have made – to love You, the Lord our God, with all our hearts and souls and minds and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves – to the glory of your name.**



### *Whiter Than Snow*

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;  
I want You forever to live in my soul.  
Break down ev'ry idol, cast out ev'ry foe.  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

#### *Chorus*

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, look down from Your throne in the skies,  
And help me to make a complete sacrifice.  
I give up myself and whatever I know;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, before You I patiently wait;  
Come now and within me a new heart create.  
To those who have sought You, You never said no.  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

#### *Chorus*

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

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### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,  
he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had  
done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and  
renewal by the Holy Spirit.

– Titus 3:4-5

**Thanks be to God!**



## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and devotion.

God of heaven and earth, You call us to come in humility before You, bringing the offering of our very selves. As You revealed Jesus to be Your Son in His baptism, so You claimed our lives in baptism, that we might walk in newness of life.

**Accept all we have and all we are, O God, as expressions of our devotion, love and worship. May Your presence flow through us always.**

### *Let the Rain of Your Presence*

Let the rain of Your presence fall on me  
Every day that I live, with every breath I breathe;  
Let the rain of Your presence fall on me,  
Everywhere that I go, Lord, let Your presence flow,  
Rain on me.

Love divine, joy unspeakable  
Overflowing in my soul;  
This heart of mine is refreshed and at rest  
In Your presence, in Your presence.

CCLI Song #1606354 ©1994 Praise On The Rock Music; Danny Chambers

## THE WORD

Matthew 3:13-17

## 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 be 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)

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's redeeming love.

Hitherto Thy love has blest me,  
Thou hast brought me to this place.  
And I know Thy hand will bring me  
Safely home by Thy good grace.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger  
Bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let Your goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Your courts above.



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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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#### Benediction:

God the Father, who sent His Spirit upon His Son,  
    bless you with the presence of His Spirit.  
Jesus, who received the Spirit and manifested the Father,  
    abide in you and make you a manifestation of His life.  
And God the Spirit, who came upon Christ in the fullness of power,  
    empower you to live in the pattern of baptismal spirituality  
    revealed in Jesus.  
To the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*A thought about worship...*— “The baptized life is a life that is lived in the *pattern of death and resurrection*. . . . The way of being in Jesus, the way of living the new resurrected life, is through participation. . . . We participate in Christ by living the life of our baptism into his death and resurrection. This is a daily, existential, moment-by-moment experience as we choose in this or that situation to die to the sins for which Christ died and choose the life of the Spirit for which Christ was raised to a new life.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 146-147.)

**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9;  
John 1:29-42

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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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