



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

January 27, 2013 (Third Sunday after Epiphany)

*The Light of the world ... fulfills Scripture.*

## GATHERING

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.**

They have no speech, they use no words;  
No sound is heard from them.

**Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the earth.**

In them He has placed a tent for the sun,  
**Its rising is from one end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the other end of them;  
there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever!

**O may Your glorious name be blessed  
And exalted above all blessing and praise!**

– from Psalm 19:1-6, Nehemiah 9:5b





*Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him*

Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore Him;  
Praise Him, angels in the height.  
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;  
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.  
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;  
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.  
Laws which never shall be broken  
For their guidance He hath made.

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;  
Never shall His promise fail.  
God hath made His saints victorious;  
Sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
Hosts on high, His power proclaim.  
Heaven and earth and all creation,  
Laud and magnify His Name.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

You alone are the LORD.  
*You have made the heavens,*  
*the heaven of heavens with all their host;*  
The earth and all that is on it,  
the seas and all that is in them.  
*You give life to all of them,*  
*and the heavenly host bows down before You.*

– Nehemiah 9:6



*Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him (verse 3)*

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,  
Lord, we offer unto Thee.  
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,  
In glad homage bend the knee.  
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;  
We would bow before Thy throne.  
As Thine angels serve before Thee,  
So on earth Thy will be done.

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader:

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

**For from Him and through Him and to Him  
are all things; to Him be glory forever.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
restoring the soul;

*The testimony of the Lord is sure,  
making wise the simple.*

The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

*The commandment of the Lord is pure,  
enlightening the eyes.*

The fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;

*The judgments of the LORD are true;  
they are righteous altogether.*

They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

*Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.*

**Your testimonies are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my  
heart. I have inclined my heart to keep your statutes forever,  
even to the end.**

– Rom. 11: 33, 36; Psalm 19:7-11, 119:111-112



## *Ancient Words*

Holy words, long preserved, for our walk in this world;  
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.  
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;  
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

### *Chorus*

Ancient words, ever true,  
Changing me, changing you.  
We have come with open hearts;  
O let the ancient words impart.



Holy words of our faith, handed down to this age,  
Came to us through sacrifice; O heed the faithful words of Christ.  
Countless saints, most unknown, labored long, and alone.  
Pressing on they won the prize, and gave us holy words of life.

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## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

But who can discern their own errors?

**Cleanse me from hidden faults.**

Keep Your servants from willful sins;

**Let them not rule over me.**

**Then I will be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.**

[Silent confessions]

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing to You, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

– based on Psalm 19:12-14



### *Wonderful Words of Life*

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.  
Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty.

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Sweetly echo the Gospel call, wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life.  
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify us forever.

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

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### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's own word, handed down by faithful hands through the ages, is trustworthy and true. Listen to what these wonderful words of life say about our assurance of pardon:

How blessed are those who fear the Lord,  
who walk in His ways,  
*How blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the Lord.*  
How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,  
who seek Him with all their heart.                      – Psalm 128:1. 119:1-2

### TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.

Sovereign Lord, we sing of Your lovingkindness and Your faithfulness. We acknowledge that all we are, and all we have, has come from Your hand. It's all about You, Jesus. In this time of worshipful giving of Your tithes and our offerings, we offer ourselves to You anew. 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.

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### THE WORD

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Luke 4:14-21

### 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**

*Lord, Have Mercy*

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken,  
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim.  
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom;  
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

*Chorus:*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.

*Verse 2:*

I have built an altar where I've worshipped things of man;  
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You.  
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing;  
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again.

*Verse 3:*

I have longed to know You, and all Your tender mercies,  
Like a river of forgiveness, ever flowing without end.  
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence,  
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night.

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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him (verse 3)*

Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto Thee.  
Young and old, Thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee.  
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;  
We would bow before Thy throne.  
As Thine angels serve before Thee, so on earth Thy will be done.

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#### Benediction:

Now, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord –  
May Christ, Light of the world and the Word made manifest,  
be so manifest in us that our lives are light to all those around us.  
To the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#### *A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“To search the Scriptures is an excellent and profitable work for souls. Just as a tree is planted by streams of waters, the soul watered by divine Scripture is enriched and gives fruit (that is, righteous belief) in its season. It is adorned with evergreen branches—actions pleasing to God. Through the Holy Scriptures, we are trained to think rightly and to act in a manner pleasing to God. For in these words we are encouraged toward every virtue and dissuaded from every evil. . . . All who ask receive, those who seek find, and to those who knock it shall be opened. Therefore, let us knock at the beautiful garden of Scripture. It is fragrant, sweet, and blooming with various sounds of spiritual and divinely inspired birds. They sing all around our ears, capture our hearts, comfort the mourners, pacify the angry and fill us with everlasting joy. Scripture sets our mind on the gold, gleaming, brilliant back of the divine dove. Its bright wings rise to the Only-begotten Son who is the Heir of the spiritual vineyard's Farmer. The divine dove brings us through Him to the Father of Lights.”  
– John of Damascus

**Lectionary for next week:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

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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