



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

February 2, 2014 (Fourth Sunday of Epiphany)

GATHERING

The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains,
the world, and those who dwell in it.

**Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For He commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
He made a decree that will not pass away.**

O LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell on Your holy hill?

**Those who walk with integrity, and work righteousness,
and speak truth in their hearts.**

They shall receive a blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

**The LORD reigns in righteousness, justice and lovingkindness.
His throne is established forever.**

Let us praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven!

— from Psalms 9, 15, 24, 148





All People That On Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Bridge:

Sing to the Lord, exalt His name;
O, make His praise glorious.
Pour forth His praise,
His anthem raise;
Rejoice in Him forever.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Bridge

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Words from *Fourscore and Seven Psalms of David* (Geneva, 1561), attributed to William Kethe. Music (verses): *Old 100th*, attributed to Louis Bourgeois.
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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



PROFESSION OF FAITH

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.”

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not,
to reduce to nothing things that are,

So that no one might boast in the presence of God.

He is the source of our life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption, – in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

– from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)

Cantor:

And seeing the multitudes, Jesus went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying –



Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful
for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Cantor:

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say
all kinds of evil against you because of Me.
Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven; for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God
on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a
year old, with sacrifices for my transgressions and the sin of my soul?

*God has told you what is good. And what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your
God?*

– from Micah 6:4-8

[Silent confessions]



Blest are the Pure in Heart

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836). Public domain.
Music: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Who may stand ascend the hill of the Lord, and who may stand in His
holy place?

*Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
whose walk is blameless, who do what is righteous,
who speak the truth from their hearts,
who do no wrong to a neighbor,
who honor those who fear the Lord.*

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the
God of their salvation; they will never be shaken.

*This is the generation of those who seek Him,
of those who seek Your face, O God.*

– from Psalms 15 and 24

The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.

*The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages and
enables us.*

Thanks be to God.



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise. . .

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.

Refrain:

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

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life.
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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THE WORD

Matthew 5:1-12



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.**

O The Passion

O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ;
King of Glory on the altar, Perfect Lamb of sacrifice.
Who are we that He would love us? Who but He would give His life?
O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ.

O, the wisdom, O, the wonder of the power of the cross;
Love so rare no words could tell it, Life Himself has died for us.
Who are we that He would save us? Crucified to give us life;
O, the wisdom, O, the wonder of the power of the cross.

O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ;
Death defeated by His rising, Darkness conquered by His light.
We will sing His praise forever, Worthy is the Lamb of Life;
O, the passion, O, the wonder Of the fiery love of Christ.

Who are we that He would love us?
Who, but He would give His life?
O, the passion, O, the wonder
Of the fiery love of Christ.

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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

And now, may our almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things both in heaven and on earth, mercifully grant that we would go forth from this place poor in spirit and in meekness as we live in the truth that His Kingdom is ours in the present, and that a new heaven and earth is our inheritance in the future, through His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“If some students can't learn through more difficult subjects, a kind, caring teacher will come on to their level and teach them by simpler means. Christ, the Word of God, did this. Paul said, "For seeing that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the word preached to save them that believe." Christ saw that people wouldn't think about God. Instead, with downcast eyes, they sought the knowledge of God in nature and in the sensory world. They imagined that mortal humans and demons were their gods. Therefore, the loving Savior of all, the Word of God, took on a body and walked among people like a human being. He met the mental capacity of all people halfway. That is to say, those who think God is physical can see the truth and recognize the Father through the Lord's physical works. Therefore, the people were drawn to Christ through whatever objects they fixed their minds on and learned the truth from all angles.”
– Athanasius

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16;
Matthew 5:13-20

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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