



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 13, 2011 (First Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!

Let us worship God as Christ's ambassadors.

Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, renewed!

— based on John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21



Crucifixion, Michiel Vervoort the Elder, wood pulpith, 1723



Invitatory

Cantor:

Lord, open our lips, and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

All:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Glory, glory in the highest! (3 times)
(Repeat)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever,
Forever. Amen, amen, amen.

©2009; Setting: Ellen Koehler

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Bow Down

Bow down before the Lord,
Worship Him, O worship Him.
Bow down before our God,
Enter in, O enter in.
Consuming fire and sweet perfume,
His awesome presence fills this room.
This is holy ground, so come and bow down.

CCLI Song #1222013; ©1993 Intergrity's Hosanna! Music. David Baroni, Tony Sutherland



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Just as sin entered the world through one man, Adam, and death came through sin, so death came to all people, because all have sinned.
But the gift of God is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the free gift that came by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many.

Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.
For if death reigned through the trespass of the one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

For just as by one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one Man the many will be made righteous.

— from Romans 5:12-19

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

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Words: John Newton, 1779 (last stanza unknown author). Hymn tune: NEW BRITAIN.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before You our own sinfulness.

We have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted Your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in Your ways and delight in doing Your will, to the glory of Your name.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.

©2001 Arr. ICS, UBP; Setting Jim Hart



The Temptation, Viktor Mikhailovich Vasnetsov, fresco, 1896



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

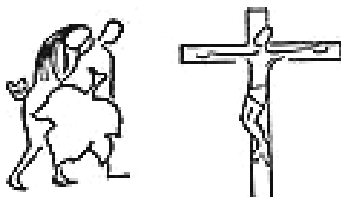
How blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit! The Lord will preserve them from trouble, and surround them with glad shouts of deliverance. He will teach them in the way they should go. — from Psalm 32:1-2, 7-8

Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them, and show them my salvation. — from Psalm 91:14-15

Receive the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

TIME OF OFFERING

Lord Jesus, in this Lenten season we journey with You on the way to the cross. Let us find our life in You only, O Lord, for all we are and all we have are gifts and a trust from Your hand. Banished from the Garden of Eden for our rebellion, we wait in expectant hope for the Paradise You have prepared, knowing that we are not our own. We've been bought with a price. Accept these offerings, what You have first given to us, in worship and thanksgiving. May our hearts always be turned to You.



One Righteous Act, Annie Vallotton



Not My Own

I am not my own,
I am bought with a price;
I am not my own, not my own.
I am not my own,
I cannot hold to pride,
I am not my own, not my own.

Take this false desire,
Burn it in Your righteous fire;
I am not my own, not my own.

This is not my home,
This is not paradise.
This is not my home, not my home.
This is not my home,
I have been far and wide;
This is not my home, not my home.

Make this longing true,
Turn my wistful heart to You.
This is not my home, not my home.

When I turn to find your eyes,
O Lord, O Lord,
I begin to realize
Once more, once more –
I am not my own,
I am bought with a price;
I am not my own, not my own.

Take this false desire,
Burn it in Your righteous fire;
I am not my own, not my own.
I am not my own, not my own.

Words and Music by Twila Paris. ©2003 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by EMI Publishing)



THE WORD

READING: Matthew 4:1-11

Meditation on the Lenten portrait: *The Deceiver*

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

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



His Temptation, 1909

I Will Bow to You

Lord, I will bow to You,
To no other God but You alone.
Lord, I will worship You,
Nothing hands have made, but You alone.

I will lay down my idols,
Thrones I have made,
All that has taken my heart.
Lord, I will bow to You,
To no other God but You alone

CCLI Song No 3262139; ©2001 Integrity's Praise! Music; Pete Episcopo



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Benediction

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, loving and serving the Lord, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent, walking in Christ's own footsteps and taking on His likeness.

And whether the Spirit asks you to put something off, or take something on, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, who was obedient even to the point of death.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship...

"When I move toward the Table of the Lord, I say yes to all that Jesus Christ has done for me. And, when I stretch forth my hand to receive the broken bread, I confess that I cannot live by bread alone, that I am in great need of my Lord. When the cup is lifted to my lips and I hear the words, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation," I say aloud, "Amen." I affirm Christ with my heart, my mind, and my whole body; and all my senses—touch taste, smell, sight, and hearing—are evoked into worship. . . . On a weekly basis I'm reminded that God does accept me just as I am, that I am forgiven, loved, and accepted by my heavenly Father. This regular part of my worship has become extremely important to my spiritual experience."

(Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God's Mighty Deeds of Salvation* [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992], 53-54.)

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
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.