



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

March 9, 2014 (First Sunday in Lent)

## GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the eternal God,  
the source of love and life, who creates and sustains us.

**Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

**How blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD!**

All creation declares the goodness of our God.

**For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with Him is great power to redeem.**

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those whom He has redeemed  
from the hand of the enemy and gathered to Himself.

**Let them thank the LORD for His lovingkindness,**

**For He satisfies the longing soul,  
and fills the hungry soul with goodness.**

Come, let us sing praises to the LORD with thanksgiving!

— from Psalms 107, 130, 147



Tree of Knowledge, Juan A. Perez, 2005



## *You Are Beautiful*

Source of life to wood and stream, Sovereign Lord and gentle King,  
More than we could ever dream: You are beautiful.  
Father to the fatherless, Healer of our brokenness,  
How You fill our emptiness: You are beautiful.

### *Chorus*

Jesus, You are beautiful;  
There is none to compare with You.  
Jesus, You are beautiful;  
And you show Your love to me,  
And it gives me grace to see:  
You are everything my heart desires.  
You are beautiful.

Son of God upon a cross, tasting death for all of us,  
Reaching out when we were lost: You are beautiful.  
Risen Lamb upon the throne, roaring Lion coming soon,  
Every eye will see it's true: You are beautiful.

©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Gary Sadler

## INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

### *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
O Thou of God, and man the Son;  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of man  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine

Public Domain; Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677;  
Transl. source unknown, vs 1-3; verse 4, Joseph A. Seiss.  
Music *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842  
Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010 Ellen Koehler.



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in the words of the Apostle Paul:

Just as sin entered the world through one man, Adam, and death came through sin, so death came to all, 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 the 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 the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one Man, Jesus Christ!

**For just as by the 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!

Public Domain. Words: John Newton, 1779. Hymn tune: NEW BRITAIN.



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Blessed are those  
*whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

Blessed are those  
*whose sin the Lord does not count against them,  
and in whose spirits is no deceit.*

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

*For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.*

**Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”  
And You forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to You.

– Psalm 32:1-6a

[Silent confessions]

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. Amen.**

*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

Through death into life everlasting  
He passed, and we follow Him there;  
Over us sin no more hath dominion –  
For more than conquerors we are!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face.  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.

Public domain. Text and music by Helen H. Lemmel, 1922.



#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord; His promises are trustworthy and true:  
I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will  
counsel you with My eye upon you.

**You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;  
You surround me with songs of deliverance.**

*Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but those who trust in the Lord,  
lovingkindness will surround them.*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones;  
and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

– from Psalm 32:7-11

#### TIME OF OFFERING

Words and expressions of devotion and thanksgiving. . .

##### *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green.  
The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel;  
By faith I know but ne'er can tell.  
His beauty doth all things excel;  
By faith I know but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought.  
For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.



Tree of Life – Hope, Marcia Baldwin, 20



This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive.  
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words: from *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs*, compiled by Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784. Tune: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

## THE WORD

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

## 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, 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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.



### *Once Again*

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice;  
You became nothing, poured out to death.  
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life,  
I'm in that place once again.  
I'm in that place once again.

### *Chorus*

Once again I look upon  
The cross where You died.  
I'm humbled by Your mercy  
And I'm broken inside.  
Once again I thank You,  
Once again I pour out my life.

### *Verse 2*

Now You are exalted to the highest place;  
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.  
But for now, I marvel at this saving grace,  
I'm full of praise once again.  
I'm full of praise once again.

### *Bridge*

Thank You for the cross,  
Thank You for the cross;  
Thank You for the cross,  
My Friend.  
(repeat)

CCLI Song #1564362; ©1995 ThankYou Music; Matt Redman

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



## *Amazing Grace*

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

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## Benediction

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent. Walking in Christ's own footsteps and taking on His likeness, let us remember that this journey of Lent is a journey from death to life.

**We go, and we remember, with grateful hearts, to love and serve the Lord. Amen. Thanks be to God!**

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

"Human desires are tempted only by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. The devil tempted the Lord by these three. He was tempted by the lust of the flesh when, while hungry from fasting, He was told, 'If thou be the Son of God, speak to these stones that they become bread.' Listen to His response: 'Not by bread alone doth man live, but by every word of God.' He was also tempted by the lust of the eyes to perform a miracle, when He was told, 'Cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.' . . . Listen to His answer and, when you face similar temptations, say the same thing: 'Get thee behind me, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.' . . . How else was the Lord tempted? By the 'pride of life.' When the devil carried Him up to a high place and said to Him, 'All these will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.' . . . What answer did the Lord teach us to give by His answer to the devil? 'It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shall thou serve.' Holding these things fast, you won't have the strong desires of the world. . . . [and] the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life won't change you. . . . For if you love the world, you cannot love God." – Augustine

**Lectionary for next week:** Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;  
John 3:1-17

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
[www.Epiclesis.org](http://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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