



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

February 17, 2013 (First Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

LEADER: YOU WHO DWELL IN THE SHELTER OF THE MOST HIGH, WHO ABIDE IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY – SAY TO THE LORD:

My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!

His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.

For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.

They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

When you call on Him, He will answer.

He will be with you in trouble; He will rescue you and honor you and you will see His salvation.

LEADER: “BECAUSE YOU HAVE LOVED ME,” DECLARES THE LORD, “I WILL DELIVER YOU. I WILL SET YOU SECURELY ON HIGH, BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN MY NAME.”

– from Psalm 91:1-4, 11-16



They Will Bear You Up, Carl Guthers Guthertz, 1889



A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe –
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cru-el hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He –
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

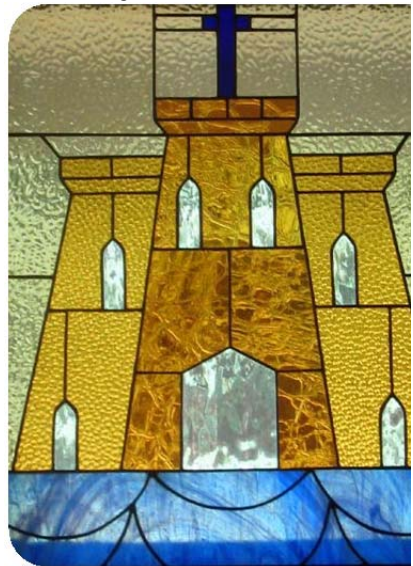
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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in Heaven above adore Thee;
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.



Public domain. Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; transl. Clarence A. Walworth.
Hymn tune: TE DEUM



PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the word of the Lord:

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” – that is, the message of faith that we proclaim:

Because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses unto salvation.

For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him.

For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

– Romans 10:8b-13

I Will Call

I will call (echo) upon the Lord (echo),
Who is worthy (echo) to be praised (echo).

So shall I be saved, so shall I be saved from my enemies.

CCLI Song #48047 ©1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Victor Rubbo.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to confession:

As for me, I will call upon God, and the LORD shall save me.

Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud,

And He shall hear my voice.

– Psalm 55:16-17

[Silent Confessions]

God of compassion, we cry out to You, for You have promised to hear and deliver. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. We humbly confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offences against You and against others. Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo; free us from a past we cannot change; and heal us, O Lord by Your grace and love. For Your sake and for Your glory, Amen.



The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me
A sinner, a sinner –
Have mercy, mercy, mercy.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's faithful promise of His love and deliverance:

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
My God, my strength, in whom I take refuge;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
*I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
And I am saved from my enemies.*

**In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.
From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him
reached His ears. He brought me out into a broad place;
He rescued me, because He delighted in me.**

– Psalm 18:2-3, 6, 19

READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.



He's Always Been Faithful

Morning by morning I wake up to find
The power and comfort of God's hand in mine.
Season by season I watch Him amazed,
In awe of the mystery of His perfect ways.
All I have need of His hand will provide;
He's always been faithful to me.

I can't remember a trial or a pain
He did not recycle to bring me gain.
I can't remember one single regret
In serving God only and trusting His hand.
All I have need of His hand will provide;
He's always been faithful to me.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

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Text: Thomas O. Chisholm | Music: William M. Runyan

This is my anthem, this is my song,
The theme of the story I've heard for so long:
God has been faithful, He will be again;
His loving compassion, it knows no end.
All I have need of His hand will provide.
He's always been faithful, He's always been faithful,
He's always been faithful to me.

CCLI Song No. 3420720 ©2000 Hope Publishing Company; Sara Groves



THE WORD

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

CRY OUT TO THE LORD

During this Lenten journey, we cry out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and pray that the Lord will hear our voice and see our deepest needs.

For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water. (Job 3:24)

Pouring into Lent

And during this Lenten journey, we will remember that the Lord will lead us with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.

Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. (Psalm 62:8)

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.

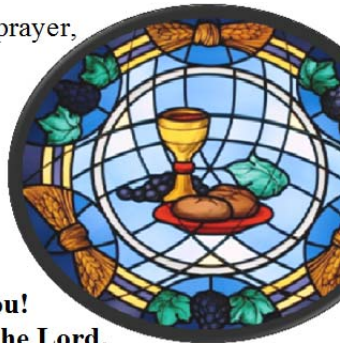
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

©1982 Les Presses de Taizé (France)

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.**

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name, I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2012. Words: Charles Wesley, *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1740.
Hymn tune: ABERYSTWTH (Parry). 1879.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (verse 4)

His word above all earthly pow'rs, No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also –
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.

Public Domain. Martin Luther; translated by Frederick H. Hedge; based on Psalm 46

Benediction:

As you go forth into the world, do so remembering that our God,
who hears when we cry out to Him, is a Refuge and Fortress.
Therefore you shall not be shaken.

**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 –

“There must not be any space between our heart and lips, . . . The Word must be near us
and within us. There must not be any delay between the heart and the lips. We must have
a faith of conviction as well as of words. . . . The Apostle Paul explains the prophet's
words: "That is the word of faith, which we preach; because if thou shalt confess with thy
mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him up from the
dead, thou shalt be saved." . . . Faith lies in simplicity, righteousness in faith, and true
godliness in confession. For God doesn't call us to the blessed life through tiring
investigations. He doesn't tempt us with rhetoric. The way to eternity is plain and easy:
believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess that He is the Lord. . . . Jesus
Christ died so that we could live in Him..”
– Hilary of Poitiers

Lectionary for next week: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17 – 4:1;
Luke 13:31-35

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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