



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

March 4, 2012 (Second Sunday in Lent)

## GATHERING

We are gathered to tell of the greatness of the LORD,  
and to declare His name.

**In the midst of the assembly we will praise You,  
and will fulfill our vows before those who fear You.**

You who fear the LORD, praise Him.

**All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him,  
all you offspring of Israel.**

For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted;  
He has not turned away His face.

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the earth shall worship before Him. For  
dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules over the nations.**

Posterity will serve Him; future generations will hear of the LORD.

**They will proclaim His deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying the  
He has done it!**

—from Psalm 22:22-31



Abraham, Filippino Lippi, 1502



*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall, let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
Ye ransomed from the fall, ye ransomed from the fall:  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred every tribe  
On this terrestrial ball, on this terrestrial ball;  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Music: James Ellor, 1838; Words: Edward Perronet, 1779; last verse: John Rippon, 1787  
Hymn tune: DIADEM

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

*The God of Abraham Praise*

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,  
The Ancient of eternal days, and God of love.  
Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heav'n confessed:  
We bow and bless the sacred name, forever blest.

He by Himself hath sworn; we on His oath depend.  
We shall, on eagles' wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.  
We shall behold His face; we shall His pow'r adore  
And sing the wonders of His grace forevermore.



The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;  
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” they ever cry.  
Hail, Abr’ham’s God and mine! With heav’n our songs we raise:  
All might and majesty are Thine and endless praise.

Public Domain. Text: Thomas Olivers, 1765; based on the Hebrew *Yigdal* of Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400. Music: Traditional Hebrew melody.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

What shall we say that Abraham our forefather has found?

**If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.**

What does Scripture say?

**“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness.”**

Now, to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift, but as an obligation.

**But to the those who do not work but trust in God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.**

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

**For this reason it depends on faith: in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all, in the sight of God in whom he believed, God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.**

Now the words, “his faith was accounted to him as righteousness,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also.

**For righteousness is accounted to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.**

— from Romans 4:1-5, 13-25



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
we are Your covenant people – drawn by Your grace into relationship  
with You. Yet we confess that we have often failed to live as You  
would have us live. We have not done Your will; we have not kept  
Your law; we have rebelled against Your love; we have not loved our  
neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Focus us on the cross and  
on Your covenant love, which You perfected through Him who is the  
Lord and King and Judge of us all, Jesus, the Christ, in whose name  
we pray. Amen.**

[Silent confessions]

### *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.

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## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be blessed by these words of assurance which God spoke to Abraham:

“I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendants  
after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant. I will be  
your God and the God of your descendants after you.”

– Genesis 17:7

Brothers and sisters, the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to  
everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s  
children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His  
commandments.

– Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18

**Thanks be to God!**



## TIME OF OFFERING

Spoken prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

**If the whole realm of nature were ours, it would be an offering far too small. Your amazing love demands our souls, our lives, our all. With grateful hearts, we offer ourselves, Your tithes, and our offerings.**

### *The Wonderful Cross*

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

### *Chorus*

O, the wonderful cross; O, the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die, and find that I may truly live.  
O, the wonderful cross; O, the wonderful cross:  
All who gather here by grace draw near, and bless Your name.

See from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

### *Chorus*

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707. Music: Lowell Mason, 1824. Setting and chorus: Chris Tomlin, J. D. Walt, Jesse Reeves. ©2000 worshippingtogether.com songs (Trad. vs 2 added, vs order rearranged)



## THE WORD

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

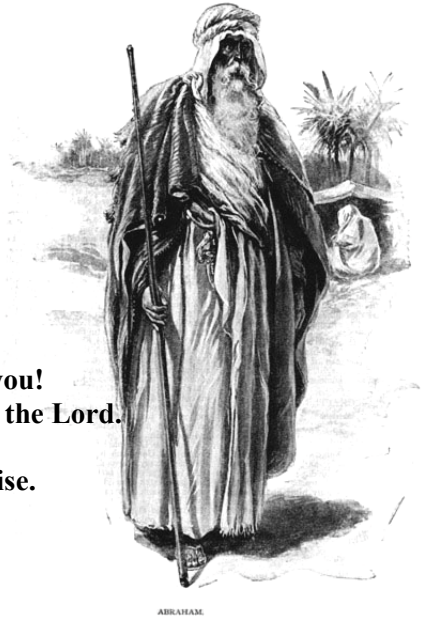
Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

## 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.**



ABRAHAM

Abraham, Artist Unknown

## *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. All Rights Reserved.



### *What Grace is Mine*

What grace is mine that He who dwells in endless light  
Called through the night to find my distant soul,  
And from His scars poured mercy that would plead for me  
That I might live, and in His name be known?

Chorus:

So, I will go wherever He is calling me.  
I lose my life to find my life in Him.  
I give my all to gain the hope that never dies.  
I bow my heart, take up my cross, and follow Him.

What grace is mine to know His breath alive in me?  
Beneath His wings, my wakened soul may soar.  
All fear can flee, for death's dark night is overcome;  
My Savior lives and reigns forevermore.

CCLI Song No. 5418895; ©2008 Thankyou Music. Kristyn Getty.

### SENDING FORTH The Life of the Body

#### *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

O that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall, we at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Music: James Ellor, 1838; Words, last verse: John Rippon, 1787 Hymn tune: DIADEM



## 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!**

## *Take Up Your Cross*

Take up your cross and follow Jesus;  
Take up your cross ev'ryday.  
Don't be ashamed, to say that you know Him.  
Count the cost, then take up your cross,  
And follow Him.

CCLI Song #849978. ©1989 Shepherd Boy Music | Sonworshippers Musicsixsteps Music; Steve Millikan, Ray Boltz and Jane Johannson.

***A thought about worship...***— “The biblical and historical understanding of the incarnation is that God *becomes* creation. He takes into himself all the effects of fallen humanity spread throughout his creation. He assumes all of creation in the womb of Mary in order to reverse the effects of sin and “bring it into the glorious freedom of the children of God” (Rom 8:21). The death and resurrection of God in Christ is . . . a second act of creation, the redemption of the whole created order. . . . God, in the incarnation, took up into himself the entire creation, so that the creation redeemed by God himself is now to be once again, as in the Garden, the theatre of his glory.” (Robert E. Webber, *Who Gets to Narrate the World? Contending for the Christian Story in an Age of Rivals* [Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008], 75-76.)

***Lectionary for next week:*** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25;  
John 2:13-22

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.

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