



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 1, 2015 (Second Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship our God, the God of Covenant,
to tell of His greatness and to declare His name.

**In the midst of the assembly we will praise You;
we 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,
declaring that He has done it!**

—from Psalm 22:22-31



God's Promises to Abram, Tissot, c. 1896-1902



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!

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

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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Text: Thomas Olivers, 1765; based on the Hebrew *Yigdal* of Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400. Tune: 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

Call to Confession: Mark 8:34-36:

Jesus called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become My disciples let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their soul?"

[Silence]

Lord, by your own hand you brought to light the eternal fabric of the universe and created the world of humankind.

*From generation to generation you are faithful,
right in your judgments, glorious in majesty and might.*

You have created all that exists in wisdom and prudence.

*To look about us is to see your goodness;
to trust in you is to know your loving kindness.*

**O merciful and pitying Lord,
cleanse us from our sins and offenses,
from our errors and failures.**

**Do not account every sin to your servants and handmaidens,
but cleanse us by the power of your truth.**

**Direct our steps until we walk in purity of heart
and our works are pleasing in your eye and in the sight of those
who are our rulers.**

[Silent confessions]



Lord, show forth the light of your face upon us in peace for our help; shelter us by your mighty hand and save us from doing wrong by stretching forth your arm.

Deliver us from those who hate us without a cause;

To us and to all humankind grant peace and concord,

even as you did to those who came before us

when they called upon you truthfully and faithfully;

And cause us to be obedient both to your own almighty and glorious name, and to all who bear rule upon the earth.

– a prayer of Clement of Rome, third century

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
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

Words and 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 give to You 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 worship together.com songs (Trad. vs 2 added, vs order rearranged)
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THE WORD

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Mark 8:31-38

Romans 4:13-25

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.**

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 #5418895 ©2008 Thankyou Music. Kristyn Getty.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (verse 4)

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!

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 – as we, His covenant people, follow Him on the way to the cross.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers – “The weakest things are animals who reproduce in corrupt, damp elements. But the most honorable things are righteousness, holiness, and anything else that pleases God. So then, are flies, midges, and frogs . . . considered "holy" and "righteous" enough to be given honorable names, even though they don't have such high qualities? But up until now, we've never heard anything like this—the weak given dignified titles, or the great and honorable degraded by their names. For Scripture says Noah was a righteous man. Abraham was faithful, Moses meek, Daniel wise, Joseph pure, Job blameless, and David perfect in patience. So, then, were these people given these titles because they lived the contrary? . . . No! God judges and distinguishes between His creatures as they naturally and truly are. He doesn't call them names contrary to their natures, but gives them the appropriate titles with clear meanings.”

– Gregory of Nyssa

*Prayer of Clement of Rome is quoted in Duane W.H. Arnold, ed., *Prayers of the Martyrs* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), p. 50.

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

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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