



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

March 27, 2011 (Third Sunday in Lent)

## GATHERING

O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;  
and extol Him with songs of praise.**

For the LORD is the great God,  
the great King above all gods.

**In His hand are the depths of the earth,  
the heights of the mountains also are His.**

**The sea is His, for He made it,  
and His hands formed the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

**For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture,  
the flock under His care.**

— from Psalm 95



Bridal Veil Falls, Yosemite, Albert Bierstadt, c.1871-1873



*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's redeeming love.

Hitherto Thy love has blest me,  
Thou hast brought me to this place.  
And I know Thy hand will bring me  
Safely home by Thy good grace.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger  
Bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let Your goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Your courts above.

Public domain. Text, Robert Robinson; traditional American melody, John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



## *Bless the Lord*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

*Songs and Prayers from Taizé*; ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé Community, France

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*

And not only that, but we also glory in our tribulations,  
knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;  
and perseverance, proven character;  
and proven character, hope.

*And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

**God demonstrates His own love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

— from Romans 5:1-8

## *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (reprise)*

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger  
Bought me with His precious blood.



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in You. Yet we confess that we have allowed our hearts to be drawn away from our rest in You. We have sought after many things, and too easily neglected Your ways. We have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

(Silent confessions)

**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in Your ways, and worship You in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

### *Living Water*

Come, Living Water flow through me like a river.  
My heart's been thirsting so long.  
Flood through my soul and pour out your mercy.  
Come, Living Water, fill me.

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## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Since we have been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!

*For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!*

Not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.  
**Thanks be to God!**

— Romans 5:9-11



*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (reprise)*

Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Your courts above.

TIME OF OFFERING

Loving Lord, You call us to Your courts and graciously invite us to enter in. We gratefully take up Your gifts of grace, acknowledging that all we are and all we have are gifts from Your hand. No treasure on earth compares with You. As we return to You Your tithes and our offerings, accept them, we pray, as expressions of our worship and devotion.

*Call Us From the Outer Court*

Call us from the outer court, Lord,  
Draw us with Your incense sweet;  
Help us to lay the cares of this day  
At Your feet, at Your feet.

Laying down all earthly idols,  
Taking up Your gifts of grace;  
We enter in, for we find a Friend  
In Your face, in Your face.

*Chorus:*

Our spirits cry out, we long for more;  
Our freedom comes as we adore You.

Cause a holy hunger in us,  
For nothing here on earth compares;  
No treasure so fair, no jewel so rare  
As the love that You show  
In Your courts.



## THE WORD

READING: John 4:5-42

Meditation on the Lenten portrait: *The Woman at the Well*



*The Woman from Samaria,*  
Carl Heinrich Bloch, c.1880

## THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

*The Lord's Prayer*

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 All Rights Reserved.



*Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,  
Thou fount of life, Thou light of men;  
From the best bliss that earth imparts  
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood,  
Thou savest those that on Thee call;  
To them that seek Thee Thou art good,  
To them that find Thee all in all.

We taste Thee, O Thou living bread,  
And long to feast upon Thee still;  
We drink of Thee, the fountainhead,  
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,  
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;  
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,  
Blest when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,  
Make all our moments calm and bright;  
Chase the dark night of sin away,  
Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.

Attr. to Bernard of Clairveaux; Tr. Ray Palmer. Music: Claude L. Bass ©1960 Broadman Press



Living Water, Richard Serrin, Contemp.



## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Living Water*

Come, Living Water flow through me like a river.  
My heart's been thirsting so long.  
Flood through my soul and pour out your mercy.  
Come, Living Water, fill me.

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#### 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...*

"Worship services that are ordered on the Word of God and the Lord's Table are faithful to the way in which God himself has sought after his creation. God first revealed. He spoke and gave witness to himself, revealing his love and concern for humanity. Then, he came. He was born, loved, died, and rose again to accomplish salvation."

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

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.