



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 23, 2014 (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,
and the sheep of His hand.**

— from Psalm 95:1-7





We Bow Down

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,
And Lord of all lords You will be.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
Lord of all lords You will be.

You are King of creation and King of my life,
King of the land and the sea.
You were King of the heavens before there was time,
And King of all kings You will be.

We bow down and we crown You the King,
We bow down and we crown You the King,
We bow down and we crown You the King,
King of all kings You will be.

CCLI Song #20003. ©1984 New Spring. Twila Paris. CCLI License # 3097801

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2003 Ellen Koehler. Text, Robert Robinson; Hymn tune: NETTLETON;
traditional American melody, John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

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 by faith into this grace in
which we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

*And not only that, but we also rejoice in our tribulations,
knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;*

And perseverance brings about proven character;

And proven character brings about 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.

**For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for
the ungodly. 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.

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



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral call to confession

The LORD, our Maker, is our God, and we are His people.

Today, as we hear His voice, let us not harden our hearts.

Lord, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright of heart.

— based on Psalm 95:7-8, 36:10

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.

[Silence]

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.

Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

Oh, precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow.

No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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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

TIME OF OFFERING

Ever present and loving God, we thank You for Your faithful leading and gracious provisions in our lives. All we are and all we have are gifts and signs of Your covenant love. In gratitude we bring to You these expressions of our worship – Your tithes, our offerings, and our testimonies of Your goodness.

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

All the way my Savior leads me; What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know whate'er befalls me, Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know whate'er befalls me, Jesus doeth all things well.

[Testimonies and words of thanksgiving and praise]

All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread.
Tho' my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! a spring of joy I see;
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! a spring of joy I see.

[Testimonies and words of thanksgiving and praise]

All the way my Savior leads me; O the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal, wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song thro' endless ages: "Jesus led me all the way."
This my song thro' endless ages: "Jesus led me all the way."

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THE WORD

Exodus 17:1-7

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 in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)





Here is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Of Your fullness You are pouring
Your great pow'r and love anew,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out our hearts to You.
You alone will be our glory,
Nothing in the world we see.
You have cleansed and sanctified us,
You Yourself have set us free.

Let us all Your love accepting love You ever, all our days;
Let us seek Your kingdom only and our lives be to Your praise.

Public Domain. William Rees (vs. 1-2); transl. from Welsh by William Edwards (1900) verses 3-4 attributed to William Williams (adapted by Ellen Koehler); Music: Robert Lowry, 1876.



SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



We Bow Down (reprise)

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,
And Lord of all lords You will be.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
Lord of all lords You will be.

Benediction

Now brothers and sisters, 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 forth into the world, remembering with grateful hearts His
promises and provisions, to love and serve the Lord.
Amen. Thanks be to God!**

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Beloved, let us draw near to faith, since its powers are so great. For faith raised Enoch up to heaven. . . . It caused the barren to bear children. It delivered people from the sword. It raised us from the pit. It enriched the poor. It released the captives. It delivered the persecuted. It brought down fire. It divided the sea. It split the rock and gave water for the thirsty to drink. It satisfied the hungry. It raised the dead and brought them up from Sheol. It stilled the storm. It healed the sick. It conquered armies. It overthrew walls. It stopped the mouths of lions and quenched the flames of fire. It humiliated the proud and brought the humble honor . . . When you have read and learned about the works of faith, you can be like the tilled land the good seed fell on. For it produced fruit of thirty-, sixty-, and a hundred-fold. Then, when you come to your Lord, He will call you a good servant, thoughtful and faithful. On account of His faith that abounds in you, you will enter the kingdom of your Lord.”

Aphrahat

Lectionary for next week: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14;
John 9:1-41

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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