



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 11, 2012 (Third Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and their expanse proclaims His handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech; night to night reveals knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

**Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.

The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

By them Your servant is warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

Make Your face shine on Your servants, and teach us Your ways.

Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

**I have inclined my heart to keep your decrees forever,
even to the end.**

— from Psalm 19:1-11 and 119:111-112, 135



The First Tablets, Phillip Ratner, Contemp



Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore Him;
Praise Him, angels in the height.
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made.

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;
Never shall His promise fail.
God hath made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
Hosts on high, His power proclaim.
Heaven and earth and all creation,
Laud and magnify His Name.

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Hymn tune: NETTLETON, *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him (verse 3)

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,
In glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;
We would bow before Thy throne.
As Thine angels serve before Thee,
So on earth Thy will be done.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not
know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was
preached to save those who believe.*

**We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called,
both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom
of God.**

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not,
to reduce to nothing things that are,

So that no one might boast in the presence of God.

**He is the source of our life in Christ Jesus, who became for us
wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness and sanctification
and redemption, –in order that, as it is written, “Let the one
who boasts, boast in the Lord.”**

– from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss! The Father turns His face away.
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.



I will not boast in anything; no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

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PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

But who can discern their own errors?

Cleanse me from hidden faults.

Keep Your servants from willful sins;

Do not let them rule over me.

Then I will be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

[Silent confessions]

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to You, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

– based on Psalm 19:12-14

Wonderful Words of Life

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.
Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life.
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven.

Public domain. American Folk Hymn; Music: William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's covenant promise to His people:

"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall all know Me, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sins no more."

— Jeremiah 31:33-34

Wonderful Words of Life (verse 3)

Sweetly echo the Gospel call, wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life.
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify us forever.

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Public domain. American Folk Hymn; Music: William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

And now with gladness we offer ourselves, all we are and all we have, as an expression of our worship and a reflection of Your faithfulness. We desire to be a blessing in Your eyes.

Psalms 19

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart
Be pleasing to You, pleasing to You.
(repeat)

You're my Rock and my Redeemer, You're the reason that I sing;
I desire to be a blessing in Your eyes.
Ev'ry hour, ev'ry moment, Lord, I want to be Your servant;
I desire to be a blessing in Your eyes in Your eyes.

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart
Be pleasing to You, my God.

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THE WORD

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22



Christ and the Money Changers, Eric Gill, 1919

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**



O The Passion

O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ;
King of Glory on the altar, Perfect Lamb of sacrifice.
Who are we that He would love us? Who but He would give His life?
O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ.

O, the wisdom, O, the wonder of the power of the cross;
Love so rare no words could tell it, Life Himself has died for us.
Who are we that He would save us? Crucified to give us life;
O, the wisdom, O, the wonder of the power of the cross.

O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ;
Death defeated by His rising, Darkness conquered by His light.
We will sing His praise forever, Worthy is the Lamb of Life;
O, the passion, O, the wonder Of the fiery love of Christ.

Who are we that He would love us?
Who, but He would give His life?
O, the passion, O, the wonder
Of the fiery love of Christ.

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David Baroni and Gary Sadler



SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

All Things Through Christ, Phillipians 4:13,
Mark Lawrence, 2009



God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power.
Crown Thine ancient church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Words: Harry E. Fosdick, 1930. Hymn Tune: CWM RHONDDA.

Benediction

Now 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 from the Ancient Fathers...— “Those who profess themselves to be Christ's are known not only by what they say, but also by what they practice. ‘For the tree is known by its fruit.’ It is better to be silent and be a Christian than to speak and not be a follower of Christ. ‘The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.’ People ‘believe with the heart and confess with the mouth,’ the one ‘unto righteousness,’ the other ‘unto salvation.’” – Ignatius

Lectionary for next week: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

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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