



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

April 3, 2011 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

## GATHERING

Let us worship the eternal God,  
the source of love and life, who creates and sustains us.

**We are new creations in Christ;  
the old have passed away; behold, all things become new!**

Let us worship God,  
who reconciled us to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ.

**In Him we are washed, restored, redeemed, renewed!**

Let us worship God in spirit and truth.

**Through us and through our worship  
may we announce the good news to all.**



The Healing of the Blind, Corinne Vonaesch, Contemporary



## *You Are Beautiful*

Source of life to wood and stream,  
Sovereign Lord and gentle King,  
More than we could ever dream:  
You are beautiful.  
Father to the fatherless,  
Healer of our brokenness,  
How You fill our emptiness:  
You are beautiful.

### *Chorus*

Jesus, You are beautiful;  
There is none to compare with You.  
Jesus, You are beautiful;  
And you show Your love to me,  
And it gives me grace to see:  
You are everything my heart desires.  
You are beautiful.

Son of God upon a cross,  
Tasting death for all of us,  
Reaching out when we were lost:  
You are beautiful.  
Risen Lamb upon the throne,  
Roaring Lion coming soon,  
Every eye will see it's true:  
You are beautiful.

©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Gary Sadler

## INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

*He makes me lie down in green pastures;*

*He leads me beside quiet waters.*

He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*

*I will fear no evil, for You are with me;*

*Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

— Psalm 23

### *Psalm 23*

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;

He makes me lie in pastures green.

He leads me by the still, still waters;

His goodness restores my soul.

He guides my ways in righteousness,

And He anoints my head with oil.

And my cup, it overflows with joy;

I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,

I will not fear the evil one;

For You are with me, and Your rod and staff

Are the comfort I need to know.

And I will trust in You alone,

And I will trust in You alone.

For Your endless mercy follows me;

Your goodness will lead me home.



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**O Lord, our great shepherd, You tenderly gather us as lambs, and carry us with Your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we too often wander from you, following our own ways, ignoring Your voice, distrusting Your provisions. Forgive, we pray, our hardened hearts, our stubborn rebellion, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by Your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by Your redeeming love.**

**Guide our paths, that we might follow You more closely. . . .**

[Silent confession]

**Through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, and for His sake we pray. Amen.**

### *Open My Eyes That I May See*

Open my eyes that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine.

Text and music: Clara H. Scott; Public domain

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.  
Walk as children of light, learning what is pleasing to the Lord.

— Ephesians 5:8,10



The Lord God said:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes."

Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed! — from Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 1:20

*Since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain (that is, through His flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

— Hebrews 10:19-22

### *Open My Eyes That I May See*

(Verse 3)

Open my mouth and let me bear  
Gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my heart, illumine me,  
Spirit divine.

Text and music: Clara H. Scott; Public domain



## TIME OF OFFERING

Prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

### *Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;  
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.  
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance now and always.  
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Public Domain; Ancient Irish Hymn (*Slane*); trans. Mary Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009

## READING: John 9:1-41

Meditation on the Lenten portrait: *Blind No More*

## THE WORD

John 9:1-41  
Ephesians 5:8-14



The Man Born Blind, Henri Lindegaard, Contemporary



## THE TABLE

### Remembering the Body of Christ

#### *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.

#### *Whiter Than Snow*

##### *Verse 1*

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;  
I want You forever to live in my soul.  
Break down ev'ry idol, cast out ev'ry foe.  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

##### *Chorus*

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

##### *Verse 2*

Lord Jesus, look down from Your throne in the skies,  
And help me to make a complete sacrifice.  
I give up myself and whatever I know;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

##### *Verse 3*

Lord Jesus, before You I patiently wait;  
Come now and within me a new heart create.  
To those who have sought You, You never said no.  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Text: James Nicholson; Music: William G. Fischer





## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Be Thou My Vision*

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;  
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Public Domain; Ancient Irish Hymn (*Slane*); trans. Mary Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009

#### 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...*

"Scripture, history, and theology teach that the common rhythm of the story of God's saving work in Jesus Christ is fundamental to all Christian worship. It is the framework for free church worship as much as it is the framework for the liturgical churches. There is only one story to be told and acted out. (But there are various styles, formal and informal, in which the story may be told.)"

(Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God's Mighty Deeds of Salvation* [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992], 59.)

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.