



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 30, 2014 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing!

**The LORD is my strength and my song;
and He has become my salvation.**

Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

We remember the deeds of the LORD, and meditate on all His works; for He is great, and His way is holy.

For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Because the LORD is always before us; we shall not be moved.

Therefore our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and we rest secure. He has made known the path of life;

In His presence is fullness of joy, forevermore!

— from Psalms 100, 118, 27, 77, 16



The Good Shepherd, Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, 5th century



All People That On Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Bridge:

Sing to the Lord, exalt His name;
O, make His praise glorious.
Pour forth His praise,
His anthem raise;
Rejoice in Him forever.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Bridge

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Words from *Fourscore and Seven Psalms of David* (Geneva, 1561),
attributed to William Kethe. Music (verses): *Old 100th*, attributed to Louis Bourgeois.
Setting and bridge: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



Cantor: (*All People That On Earth Do Dwell*)

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker. (Repeat)

For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand, Yes, the sheep of His hand.

CCLI Song #27329 ©1980 Maranatha Praise, Inc. Dave Dohert. CCLI License # 3097801

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Christ Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we
might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you
have been healed.

*For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to
the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

– 1 Peter 2:24-25

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



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;
O, let me from this day be wholly Thine.

O Lord, both Good Shepherd and Lamb of God, You tenderly gather us and carry us with Your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we tend to 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 anew and restore our souls by Your redeeming love. Guide our paths in Your ways, that we may follow You more closely.

[Silence]

Through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, and for His sake we pray. Amen.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.
As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee,
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide; be Thou my guide....
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

Setting: Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. Text: Ray Palmer. Music: Lowell Mason. 1830

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord:



I am the Good Shepherd;

the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

I am the Good Shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,
even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father;
and I lay down My life for the sheep.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish;

No one will snatch them out of My hand.

— from John 10:11-28

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Gracious Lord and loving Shepherd,

through Your goodness and mercies You have blessed us with all we have, and all we are. With gratitude we joyfully give back to You what is Yours. As covenant people, the sheep of Your pasture, we lift our lives up to You in worship, thanksgiving, and trust.

Meditation and reflections on the Psalm, image, and music:

The Lord is My Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture,

And lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul,

And bring me forth in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake; for His name's sake; for His name's sake

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me

Against them that trouble me.

Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

Thy lovingkindness and mercy

Shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord, . . . fore'er.

John Rutter. From *Requiem* (recording)



THE WORD

Psalm 23

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 Shepherd and the Star, Daniel Bonnell

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**

Yet I Will Praise You

I will praise You, Lord, my God;
Even in my brokenness I will praise You, Lord.
I will praise You, Lord. my God;
Even in my desperation I will praise You, Lord.



And I can't understand all that You allow,
I just can't see the reason.
But my life is in Your hands,
And though I cannot see You, I choose to trust You.

Even when my heart is torn, I will praise You, Lord.
Even when I feel deserted, I will praise You, Lord.
Even in the darkest valley, I will praise You, Lord.
And when my world is shatter'd, and it seems all hope is gone
Yet I will praise You, Lord.

I will trust You, Lord, my God;
Even in my loneliness I will trust You, Lord.
I will trust You, Lord, my God;
Even when I cannot hear You I will trust You, Lord.
And I will not forget that You hung on a cross,
Lord, You bled and died for me.
And if I have to suffer I know that You've been there,
And I know that You're here now.

Even when my heart is torn I will trust You, Lord.
Even when I feel deserted I will trust You, Lord.
Even in the darkest valley I will trust You, Lord.
And when my world is shatter'd, and it seems all hope is gone,
Yet I will praise You, Lord.

CCLI Song # 3033258 ©1999 Vineyard Songs Canada; Andy Park

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name, when I'm found in the desert place;
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name, on the road marked with suffering;
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name.

CCLI Song #3798438 ©2002 Thankyou Music; Matt Redman and Beth Redman

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



Blessed Be Your Name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say –

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name.

CCLI Song #3798438 ©2002 Thankyou Music: Matt Redman and Beth Redman

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 to love and serve the Lord, our
Shepherd, Redeemer, and King, to whom be glory now and
forever. Amen. Thanks be to God!**

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Feed us, Your children, as sheep. Master, fill us with righteousness from Your own pasture. Instructor, give us food on Your holy mountain. . . . ‘And I will be,’ He says, ‘their Shepherd,’ and will be as near to them as clothes to their skin. He wants to save my flesh by enveloping it in the robe of immortality, and He has anointed my body. ‘They shall call Me,’ He says, ‘and I will say, Here am I.’ You heard sooner than I expected, Master. ‘And if they pass over, they shall not slip,’ says the Lord. For we who are passing over to eternal life will not fall into corruption because He will sustain us. For so He has said and so He has willed. Our Instructor is righteously good. ‘I came not,’ He says, ‘to be ministered unto, but to minister.’ Therefore, He is introduced in the Gospel as ‘wearied,’ because He toiled for us and promised ‘to give His life as a ransom for many.’ For Christ alone is the Good Shepherd. He is generous and gives us the greatest of all gifts, His own life. He is extremely good and loving to men, while, when He might have been Lord, He wished to become a brother to humanity. He was so good that He died for us.”

– Clement of Alexandria

Lectionary for next week: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11;
John 11:1-45

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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