



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 18, 2012 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

We arise today

**Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through the belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation.***

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

For His steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those He has redeemed from trouble
and gathered to Himself.

**Give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness,
for His wonderful works to the children of men.**

Let us offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of His deeds
with songs of joy!

– from Psalm 107:1-3, 21-22



*From the *Lorica* of St. Patrick
(St. Patrick's Breast-Plate; 5th C.)

The Brazen Serpent, James Tissot, c. 1900



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Christ Be Beside Me

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts, thinking about me,
Christ be on all tongues, telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.

Text: *St. Patrick's Breastplate*; adapt. by James Quinn. Tune: BUNESSAN; Public Domain



PROFESSION OF FAITH

I bind unto myself today, forever, by the power of faith –

Through the strength of Christ's birth with His baptism,
Through the strength of His crucifixion with His burial,
Through the strength of His resurrection with His ascension,
Through the strength of His descent for the judgment of Doom.

I bind unto myself today –

The power of God to hold and lead
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need,
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, His shield to ward;
The Word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

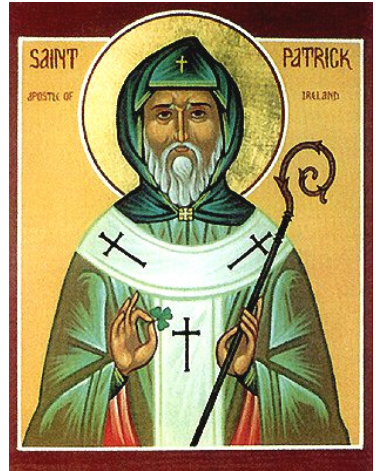
I bind to me these holy powers –

Against the demon snares of sin,
The vice that gives temptation force,
The natural lusts that war within,
The hostile foes that mar my course.
Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry.

I bind unto myself the name,

**The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.
By whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:**

**Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.**



– Adapted from the *Lorica* of St. Patrick,
and from the hymn, *St. Patrick's Breastplate*
metered text: Cecil F. Alexander (1889)



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Reading: John 3:14-21

Most merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding. You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Yet too often we have strayed from Your way. In thought, word, and deed we have hurt others and dishonored Your name. We often betray Your love, yet still You extend it. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. In Your great mercy, forgive us – not because we are worthy but for the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us – that we may walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

[Silent confessions]

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Text: George Matheson. Music: Albert L. Peace (Tune: ST. MARGARET)



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

– Ephesians 2: 4-6

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.

– Psalm 107:1

TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and faithfulness

O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward
To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o’er His loved ones, died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o’er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!
‘Tis an ocean vast of blessing, ‘tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, ‘tis a heav’n of heav’ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

Traditional. Text: Samuel Trevor Francis. Tune: Thomas J. Williams (Hymn tune: Ebenezer);
Setting Ellen Koehler ©2008



THE WORD

Numbers 21:4-9

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

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

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed by 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.



The Dove and the Eucharist #9,
Daniel Bonnell, Contemp

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



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.

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.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

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Benediction

Now as we go forth into the world, observing a holy Lent,
Let us walk in Christ's own footsteps and take on His likeness.

**Christ be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me.
Christ be within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit and when I arise.
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the heart of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.** —from the *Lorica* of St. Patrick

Go forth into the world, to love and serve the Lord.
Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship...

"I once understood the gospel as God asking me to let him into my narrative, to find room for him in my heart and life. But now I realize that God bids me to find my place in his narrative. In God's story, he, with his own two hands—the incarnate Word and the Holy Spirit—recapitulated and reversed the human situation so I can now live in him. Through him I can live in the expectation of a restored world without the presence of evil. Here and now, because God became incarnate and recapitulated all things, I live in him, in his narrative, and he lives in my life, which is to be a witness to his narrative for the world."

(Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008], 174-175.)

Lectionary for next week: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Psalm 119:9-16;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

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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