



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 15, 2015 (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.)

Come Thou, Almighty King

To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be.
Hence evermore:
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see;
And to eternity
Love and adore.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Text: Anonymous.
Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1769.





Sing to the Lord

Eternal, Immortal God of all glory,
Fearful in wonders and worthy of praise;
The Alpha, Omega, Lord God Almighty,
Wonderful, Beautiful, Ancient of Days.

Chorus

And I sing praise, I give You my heart,
I sing praise, I give You my all, I sing praise –
Sing to the Lord.

Redeemer, Messiah, Rock of the ages,
A help in trouble, a tower of strength;
Emmanuel, Jehovah, God of Creation,
Wonderful, Beautiful, King of all kings.

Bridge

God of compassion and God of all gladness and
Your tender mercies are new every morning, and
God of compassion and God of all gladness and
You dance around me, You dance around me.

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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 –

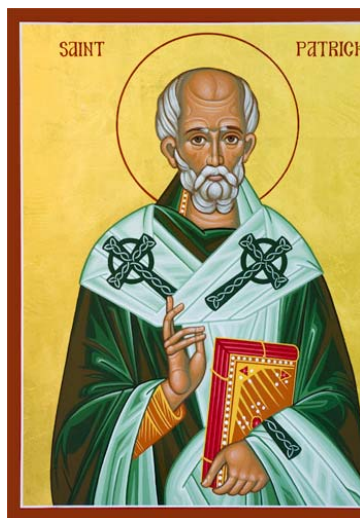
Against the demon snares of sin,
The vice that gives temptation force,
The natural lusts that war within,
The hostile foes that mar my course.
Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry.

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: John 3:14-21

[Silence]

Lord Jesus Christ, creator of heaven and earth;
you will never abandon those who put their trust in you.

We give you thanks:

**you have prepared us to live in your heavenly city
and share in your kingdom.**

We give you thanks:

**you have strengthened us to overcome the serpent
and crush its head.**

Grant rest to your servants,

let the violence of their enemies be placed upon me.

**Grant peace to your Church; may it be delivered from the
oppression of the Wicked One.**

— a prayer of Theodotus of Ancyra,
a martyr in Asia Minor during
the persecution of Diocletian, c. 303^{*}

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

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

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.

Setting Ellen Koehler ©2008 Text: Samuel Trevor Francis, 1875.
Hymn tune: Thomas J. Williams, EBENEZER, 1890.

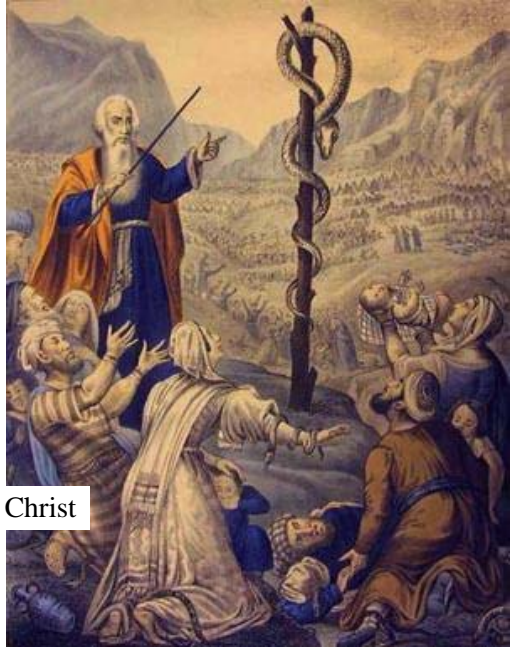


THE WORD

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 (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



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.

Setting: ©2010 Ellen Koehler

Text: Ray Palmer, 1830. Hymn tune: OLIVET (MASON), Lowell Mason, 1830

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Lift High the Cross

Refrain:

Lift High the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore His sacred Name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw the world to Thee. *Refrain*

Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be;
Praise to the Crucified for victory. *Refrain*

Refrain

Public domain. Words: George W. Kitchin, modified by Michael R. Newbolt in 1916.
Hymn tune: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1916.



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 –
as we, His covenant people, follow Him on the way to the cross.
Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers... – “If one day we will receive comfort from afflictions, rest from labor, health after sickness, and eternal life from death, it isn't right to agonize over temporal, human pain. To be agitated by the trials we face is inappropriate. And it isn't right to fear mobs who fight against Christ and conspire against godliness. Instead, we should please God all the more through these things. We should consider such matters to be the test and exercise of a righteous life. For how can we have patience if there isn't previous labor and sorrow? Or how can our strength be tested without attacks from the enemy? ... Finally, how can we see righteousness unless the sin of very wicked people appears previously? As a result, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ reminds us how to suffer. When He was beaten, He bore it patiently. Although verbally abused, He didn't lash out in return. When He suffered, He didn't speak threats but gave His back to the torturers and His cheeks to buffetings. He didn't turn His face away from the spitting but was willingly led to His death so that we could see the image of righteousness in Him. By following these examples, we can tread on serpents, scorpions, and all of the enemy's power.”
– Athanasius

[†]Prayer of Theodotus of Ancyra is quoted in Duane W.H. Arnold, ed., *Prayers of the Martyrs* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), p. 54.

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
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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