



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 17, 2013 (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Reader: We gather to declare His glory, power, majesty and grace.

Hear the word of the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters: Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The beasts of the field will honor Me, for I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people, the people whom I formed for Myself that they might declare My praise.

— from Isaiah 43:16-21

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

His greatness is unsearchable.

*One generation shall praise Your works to another,
and shall declare Your mighty acts.*

They tell of the glory of Your kingdom, and speak of Your might,
*All Your works shall praise You, O LORD;
and Your faithful people shall bless You.*

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad!

Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with joyful shouting. All who see us declare, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

— from Psalms 145 and 126





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), attr. to William Kethe.

Music: *Old 100th*, attr. to Louis Bourgeois. Setting and bridge: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Sing to the Lord

And I sing praise, I give You my heart,
I sing praise, I give You my all,
I sing praise –
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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PROFESSION OF FAITH

The testimony of the Lord, from Paul's epistle to the Philippians:

Whatever things were gain to me

I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

*Indeed, I count all things as loss in view of the surpassing value of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

For His sake, I consider the former things as mere rubbish in order that

I may gain Christ and be found in Him,

*Not having any righteousness of my own, but the righteousness that
comes from God through faith in Christ.*

This is my goal: to know Him and the power of His resurrection and
the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death so
that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

*Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in
Christ Jesus.*

**For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait
for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the
body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His
glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject
all things to Himself.**

– from Philippians 3:7-14, 20-21



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to confession:

Incline Your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am godly;

You are my God; save Your servant, who trusts in You.

[Silence]

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for to You do I cry all the day. Gladden
the soul of your servant, for to You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.

For You, O LORD, are good and forgiving,

abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me.

[Silent confessions]

You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

**Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
unite my heart to fear Your name.**

– Psalm 86:3-7

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We've professed our faith, we've confessed our sins, now hear the
promises of God:



You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

– 1 Peter 2:9-10

I will praise You, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. For great is Your steadfast love.

– Psalm 86:12-13a

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

And now we offer ourselves, all we are and all we have, as an expression of our worship and a reflection of Your love. Amen.

The Heart of Worship

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come;
Longing just to bring something that's of worth,
That will bless Your heart.

Bridge:

I'll bring You more than a song,
For a song in itself is not what You have required.
You search much deeper within, through the way things appear;
You're looking into my heart.

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship,
And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.

Verse 2:

King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, every single breath.

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THE WORD

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

CRY OUT TO THE LORD

During this Lenten journey, we cry out to the Lord, who has redeemed us from the former things, and pray that the Lord will hear our groaning and set us free from bondage.

For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water. (Job 3:24)

Pouring into Lent

And during this Lenten journey, we will remember that God has made a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. With Him there is steadfast love and great power to redeem and make all things new.

Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. (Psalm 62:8)

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

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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.**

Knowing You

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

Chorus

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
To be found by You, and known as Yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn;
All surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life,
And to know You in Your sufferings,
To become like You in Your death, my Lord;
So with You to live, and never die.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Knowing You

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.

CCLI Song #1045238; ©1993 Make Way Music; Graham Kendrick

Benediction

As you go forth into the world, do so remembering that our God, who hears when we cry out to Him, has done great things for us. He has made us His chosen people, that we might declare His praise at all times. Therefore take heart, for you shall not be shaken.

We will remember, with grateful hearts, as we go forth to love and serve the Lord. Amen. Thanks be to God.

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“I am only intent on ‘one thing’ says Paul, ‘in stretching forward to the things which are before.’ But included in this ‘one thing’ he says, is ‘forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.’ Forgetting the past things made him reach forward to the things ahead. . . . We should act like him, forget our successes, and throw them behind us. For runners don't think about how many laps they have finished, but how many are left. We, too, should think not about how we are advanced in holiness, but about how much farther we have to go. For how do we profit from what we have when we don't add what we lack? In addition, Paul didn't say, ‘I don't think about,’ but ‘I don't even remember.’ For we become eager when we diligently work toward what is left, when we forget everything else.”

– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

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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