



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 28, 2013 (Holy Thursday)

Embrace the Cross: A Service of Shadows (*Tenebrae*)

GATHERING

We invite worshipers to enter, and then pray, in silence.

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

Music: Jacques Berthier ©1979, Les Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé Community, France

[Silence]





A WORD ABOUT TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Psalm 22 (chanting)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

and are so far from my cry and the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer,*

by night as well, but I find no rest.

All who see me laugh me to scorn;*

they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

“He trusted in the LORD, let him deliver him;*

let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”

Be not far from me, for trouble is near,*

and there is none to help.

I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;*

my heart within my breast is melting wax.

Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me;*

they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;*

they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

Be not far away, O LORD;*

you are my strength; hasten to help me.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.*

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;*

they shall be known as the LORD'S forever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn*

the saving deeds that he has done.

– Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2010

[A Time of Silent Meditation]

The first candle is extinguished



READING: Luke 22:7-16

The second candle is extinguished

THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Communion meditations:

Jesus says, “The bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world. ... I am the bread of life; all who come to Me will never hunger, and all who believe in Me will never thirst. ... I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is His will: that everyone who believes in the Son will have eternal life.”

– from John 6:33-40

[A moment of silence]

Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples.

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

“But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

– Matthew 26:20, 26-30

[A moment of silence]



For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

– 1 Corinthians 11:23-26



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**



I Will Remember Thee

According to Thy gracious Word,
In meek humility,
This will I do my dying Lord:
I will remember Thee
Thy body broken for my sake,
My bread from heav'n shall be.
Thy testamental cup I take,
And thus remember Thee.

Chorus

I will remember, I will remember,
I will remember, remember Thee.

When to the cross I turn mine eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,
I must remember Thee.
Remember Thee and all Thy pains,
And all Thy love to me;
Yea while a breath, a pulse remains,
Will I remember Thee.

Chorus

And when these failing lips grow dumb, and mind and memory flee,
When Thou shalt in Thy kingdom come, Jesus, remember me.

©2001 Maranatha! Music. Greatorex/Montgomery. Tune, chorus: John A. Schreiner

The third candle is extinguished

READING Isaiah 53:1-12

The fourth candle is extinguished



EMBRACE THE CROSS

We encourage worshipers to interact with the cross as they are led.

Meditation

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and principalities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

– Colossians 2:13-15

[Silence]

To the Cross

Babbie Mason

The fifth candle is extinguished

Meditation

Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

– Galatians 5:24

I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

– Galatians 2:20

[Silence]

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Traditional
Watts/Mason

The sixth candle is extinguished



Meditation

God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

— Galatians 6:14

[Silence]

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss!
The Father turns His face away.
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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The seventh candle is extinguished



DEPARTING

Closing meditation: *Tenebrae factae sunt*

(Gregorian chant)

Tenebrae factae sunt, dum crucifixissent Jesum Judaei.

Et circa horam nonam exclamavit Jesus voce magna:

Deus meus, ut quid me dereliquisti?

Et inclinato capite, emisit spiritum exclamans Jesus voce magna ait:

Pater, in manus tuas commendo spiritum meum.

Et inclinato capite, emisit spiritum.

Translation:

There was darkness over the earth when they crucified Jesus.

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice:

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

And he bowed his head and gave up His spirit.

Jesus cried with a loud voice and said,

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

And he bowed his head and gave up His spirit.

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Holy God, You have opened our ears to hear Your word, and our hearts to see in the cross the revelation of Your love. In faith we have nailed our confessions, our cares, and our cries to the cross. Trusting in Your faithfulness, we leave them there with You. And as we depart in silence, we do so contemplating the true meaning of sacrifice.

Amen.

Now may the Lord, Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and forever.

Amen.

We invite worshipers to leave in silence.

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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