



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

April 21, 2011 (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]





Psalm 22 (chanting)

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

and are so far from my cry and from 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.



[A Time of Silent Meditation]

THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Communion meditation:

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

Matthew 26:20, 26-30:

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.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26:

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.



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 heaven 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.

CCLI Song No. 3182879; ©2001 Maranatha! Music; Creatorex/Montgomery/Schreiner



EMBRACE THE CROSS

We encourage worshipers to interact with the cross if so led.

Reading: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:4:

Behold, My servant will prosper;

He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.

Many were astonished, for His appearance was disfigured beyond that of any human being, and His form marred beyond human likeness.

Thus He will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand.

Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He had no stately form or majesty that we should be attracted to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.

He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

[Silence]

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred Head, now wounded with grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.
How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
How does that visage languish, which one was bright as morn!

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior; 'tis I deserve Thy place.
Look on me with Thy favor; assist me with Thy grace.



What language shall I borrow to thank Thee dearest Friend,
For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever; and, should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

Paul Gerhardt; based on Medieval Latin poem ascribed to Bernard of Clairvaux; Trans. from the German by James W. Alexander. Music: Hans Leo Hassler; harmonized by J. S. Bach.

[Silence]

Reading: Isaiah 53:5-12:

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we were healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, each of us, to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off from the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?

His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Yet it was the LORD'S will that He suffer; and though the LORD makes His life an offering for sin, He will see His descendants, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.



[Silence]

Redeemer, Savior, Friend

I know You had me on Your mind
When You climbed up on that hill,
For You saw me with eternal eyes,
While I was yet in sin.
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Chorus

Oh, Redeemer, redeem my heart again;
Savior, come and shelter me from sin.
You're familiar with my weakness,
Devoted to the end.
Redeemer, Savior, Friend,

Verse 2

Every stripe upon Your battered back,
Every thorn that pierced Your brow,
Every nail drove deep through guiltless hands
Said that Your love knows no end.
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Verse 3

So the grace You pour upon my life
Will return to You in praise,
And I'll gladly lay down all my crowns
For the name by which I'm saved.
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

CCLI Song No. 2831523; ©1999 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Chris Springer and Darrell Evans

A Time of Silent Meditation:
Galatians 6:14; Galatians 2:20



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

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

DEPARTING

We invite worshipers to leave in silence.



The Cross, Daniel Bonnell, Contemporary

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.