



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

August 24, 2014 (Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost)

## GATHERING

Give thanks to the LORD with a whole heart;  
tell of all His wonderful works.

**We will be glad and exult in Him;  
and sing praises to the name of the Most High.**

Bow down toward His holy temple in worship, and give thanks  
to His name for His unfailing love and faithfulness.

**For He has exalted His name and His word above all things.**

**On the day I called, He answered me;**

**He increased the strength of my soul.**

The LORD will fulfill His purpose for us;

His steadfast love endures forever.

**O give thanks to the LORD and sing of His ways,  
for great is the glory of the Lord!**

– from Psalm 138



Detail from [Saint Peter](#), Peter Paul Rubens, 1616-1618



*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

*Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father,  
And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be:  
World without end. Amen, amen.

Public Domain. Gloria Patri, traditional, 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Music: Christopher Meineke.



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord, from Matthew 16:13-20:

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi,

He asked His disciples,

*“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”*

And they said,

**“Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”**

He said to them,

*“But who do you say that I am?”*

Simon Peter answered,

**“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”**

And Jesus answered him,

*“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*

### *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

Jesus, the very thought of Thee  
With sweetness fills the breast;  
But sweeter far Thy face to see,  
And in Thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, nor heart can frame,  
Nor can the memory find  
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name,  
O Savior of mankind!

Jesus, may all confess Thy name,  
Thy wondrous love adore,  
And, seeking Thee, themselves inflame  
To seek Thee more and more.

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## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your true and proper, reasonable and spiritual service of worship.

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

– from Romans 12:1-2

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to You, our God, and before one another,  
that we have sinned, in thought, word and deed.**

**We have offended Your holiness.**

**We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We have followed the devices of our own hearts,  
and have spurned the promptings of Your Spirit.**

**We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.**

[Silence]

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

**Accept our repentance, and accomplish in us the work of Your salvation, that we may show forth Your glory in the world; through Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### *The Jesus Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and forgiveness:

Though the LORD is high and exalted, yet He regards the lowly; but the proud and haughty He sees only from afar. – Psalm 138:6

*For thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place, and with the contrite and lowly of spirit, in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."* – Isaiah 57:15

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD.

Look to the Rock from which you were hewn. For the LORD will comfort His people; joy and gladness will be found in them, thanksgiving and the voice of song. And His justice will be a light to the peoples: His salvation will be forever, and His deliverance will never be ended. – from Isaiah 51:1-6

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's loving faithfulness

### *Take My Life*

Holiness, holiness is what I long for;  
Holiness is what I need.  
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

#### *Chorus:*

So take my heart and form it;  
Take my mind, transform it;  
Take my will, conform it  
To Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

#### *Verse 2*

Faithfulness, faithfulness...

#### *Verse 3*

Righteousness, righteousness...

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## THE WORD

### Lectionary

Exodus 1:8 - 2:10

Psalm 124

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

## 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**

*Behold the Lamb*



Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us:  
And we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross.  
So, we share in this Bread of Life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you:  
Eat and remember  
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,  
Paid the price to make us one.  
So, we share in this Bread of Life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin, shed for you:  
Drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God.  
So, we share in this Bread of Life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond,  
And to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering,  
We proclaim: Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n  
Around the table of the King.

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SENDING FORTH



## The Life of the Body

### *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)*

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.

### Benediction

Now, may the grace of Christ, which daily renews us,  
and the love of God, which enables us to love as He has loved us,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body,  
compel us to go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord -  
giving witness to what we have seen and believed,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

(text based in part on 2 Corinthians 13:13)

### *A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“Confess Christ, we will become like Peter. We are considered blessed as he was. Flesh and blood haven’t revealed to us that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of the living God, but the Father in heaven has, so that we can be citizens of heaven. This revelation carries to heaven those who unveil their hearts and receive ‘the spirit of the wisdom and revelation’ of God. And if we say like Peter, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,’ not because flesh and blood revealed it to us, but because our heavenly Father’s light has shone in our hearts, we become a rock, or a Peter. . . Christ is the spiritual Rock from whom His people drank and every disciple of Christ is a rock. Every word of the church and its government is built upon every such rock. For the church is built by God through each of the perfect ones who provide blessing through their words, deeds, and thoughts.”

– Origen

**Lectionary for next week:** Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;  
Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

[www.Epiclesis.org](http://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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