



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

September 11, 2011 (Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

## GATHERING

Lord, open our lips,  
**and our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.**

Who is like You, O God:

**Majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?**

You, O God, are mighty forever, glorious in power;

**Your faithfulness surrounds You.**

You sustain the living, and give life to the dead;

**You support the falling, and loose those who are bound,  
and keep your faithfulness to all generations.**

Who is like you, O Ancient of Days?

**This is my God, and I will praise Him;**

**this is our God; we will exalt Him.**

— Exodus 15; Psalm 89; Daniel 7

Come, let us sing to the Lord!



Crossing the Red Sea: Palms, Yoram Raanan, 2003



### *Ancient of Days*

Blessing and honor, glory and power,  
Be unto the Ancient of Days.  
From ev'ry nation, all of creation,  
Bow before the Ancient of Days.  
Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,  
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne in worship;  
You will be exalted, O God,  
And Your kingdom shall not pass away, O Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth;  
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.  
For none can compare to Your matchless worth;  
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

CCLI Song No. 798108 ©1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Words and Music by Gary Sadler  
and Jamie Harvill; CCLI License # 3097801

### INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

### *Awesome God*

Our God is an awesome God:  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, pow'r and love;  
Our God is an awesome God.

CCLI Song No. 41099 ©1988 BMG Songs, Inc. Rich Mullins



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in the words of the Apostle Paul from Romans 14:

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

*If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.*

So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

*For to this end Christ died and lived again,*

*So that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*

**Just as it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."**

– Romans 14:7-9, 11

## *You Are Beautiful*

Source of life to wood and stream, Sovereign Lord and gentle King,  
More than we could ever dream: You are beautiful.

Father to the fatherless, Healer of our brokenness,  
How You fill our emptiness: You are beautiful.

### *Chorus*

Jesus, You are beautiful;  
There is none to compare with You.  
Jesus, You are beautiful;  
And you show Your love to me,  
And it gives me grace to see:  
You are everything my heart desires.  
You are beautiful.

Son of God upon a cross, tasting death for all of us,  
Reaching out when we were lost: You are beautiful.  
Risen Lamb upon the throne, Roaring Lion coming soon,  
Every eye will see it's true: You are beautiful.

### *Chorus*

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## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession: Matthew 18:21-35

[Silent confessions]

**Almighty God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile the world to yourself. He is not repelled by the shabbiness and shamefulness of our lives; He seeks always to redeem us. But we too often turn away from those who hurt us, whose actions bewilder us, whose sorrow burdens us, or whose good fortune seems somehow to detract from our lives. We limit our compassion to those like ourselves, and reserve our kindness for those who are kind to us. O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and make us daily more like Christ, that we may walk in your ways to the glory of your Name.**

[Silence]



The Unmerciful Servant, Rembrandt



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### *Bless the Lord (Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits –*

**Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

– Psalm 103:1-5

### *Refrain*

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will He keep His anger forever

*He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.*

**As far as the east is from the west, so far He removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for His children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him.**

– Psalm 103:8-13

### *Refrain*



## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

### *The Servant Song*

We are trav'lers on a journey,  
Fellow pilgrims on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold the Christ-light for you,  
In the night time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

Will you let me be your servant?  
Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
Let you be my servant, too.  
Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
Let you be my servant, too.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
Till we've seen this journey through.  
When we sing to God in heaven,  
We shall find such harmony;  
Born of all we've known together,  
Of Christ's love and agony.

Words: Richard Gillard ©1977 Scripture in Song.  
Hymn tune: BEACH SPRING; Benjamin F. White, from the *Sacred Harp* (1844).



The Journey, Michael Dudesh, Contemp



## THE WORD

Romans 14:1-12

## 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.

*We Behold You (Fraction Anthem)*

With all of the saints and angels, we gather before You.  
Our hearts filled with thankfulness,  
We lift up Your holy Name.  
With all who have gone before us, we feast at Your table.  
We eat of Your body and drink of Your holy blood.

And we behold You, and we behold You  
Lamb of God, slain for our sins.  
(Repeat)

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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Christ, Be our Light*

Longing for light, we were in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turned to You.  
Make us your own, Your holy people: Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in Your church sent forth today.

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell; © OCP Publications 1998

#### Benediction

Brothers and sisters, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, let us remember with thankful hearts that He has called us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will. He has made us strangers no longer, but pilgrims together on the way of His kingdom. May He guide us closer to Him and to one another, in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace, confirming us in His ways, for His glory alone, forever.

**Amen. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***A thought about worship...***— “God’s story is no abstract, esoteric story that has nothing to do with life. God’s story is the very essence of Christian living. Life is not a willy-nilly, ‘be nice to your neighbor’ philosophy but a life to be lived in the way God designed it to be lived. This new life is to be a very reflection of God’s own being and nature.” (Robert E. Webber, *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006, 43).

***Lectionary for next week:*** Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

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.