



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

August 18, 2013 (Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned on high?

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them.

Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned on high?

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Who is like You, O LORD our God: enthroned on high;
Majestic in holiness, awesome in praises?

– from Psalm 113:5, Hebrews 12:18-24, Exodus 15:11

You are God; we praise You!

You are the Lord; we acclaim You!

You are the Eternal Father: All creation worships You!

**To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

– from *Te Deum laudamus* (“Thee, O God, we praise”).

A hymn of the early church, fourth century.

Attributed to church fathers Ambrose and Augustine.



I See the Lord

I see the Lord,
Seated on the throne, exalted;
And the train of His robe
Fills the temple with glory.
And the whole earth is filled,
And the whole earth is filled,
And the whole earth is filled with His glory.

Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy is the Lord.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
The Ancient of eternal days, and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heav'n confessed:
We bow and bless the sacred name, forever blest.

The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy," cry, "Almighty King!"
Who was and is the same and evermore shall be:
Eternal Father, great I AM, we worship Thee.

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! With heav'n our songs we raise:
All might and majesty are Thine and endless praise.

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The glorious company of apostles praises You.

The noble fellowship of prophets praises You.

The white-robed army of martyrs praises You.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims You;

Father of majesty unbounded,

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory,

The eternal Son of the Father.

When You became man to set us free

You did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Leader:

Come then, Lord, and help Your people,

bought with the price of Your own blood,

and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

– from *Te Deum laudamus*





PROFESSION OF FAITH

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made of things which are visible. By faith, the ancients gained approval from God, for without faith it is impossible to please Him.

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises. But having seen them, they believed and welcomed them from a distance.

They considered Him faithful who had promised.

By faith they esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt.

Through faith they worked righteousness;

Out of weakness they were made strong;

They persevered through adversity and opposition;

They became valiant in battle;

And they endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

All these, although they gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

Because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Leader:

Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

– from Hebrews 11:1 – 12:3



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

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[Silence]

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock;
You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!

**Come, and restore us, LORD God of hosts;
make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

– Psalm 80:1, 19

[Silent confessions]

**Come, and restore us, LORD God Almighty;
make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God of Abraham Praise

He by Himself hath sworn; we on His oath depend.
We shall, on eagles' wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
We shall behold His face; we shall His pow'r adore,
And sing the wonders of His grace forevermore.

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TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

“I thank the Lord because . . . “



My Lips will Praise You

My lips will praise You, for You are holy.
My voice will ever rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You, for You are lovely,
And You have called me to become Your own.

I am Your own, and I will worship You alone.
I am Your own, I am Your child.
I am Your own, and I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own, And I will love You.

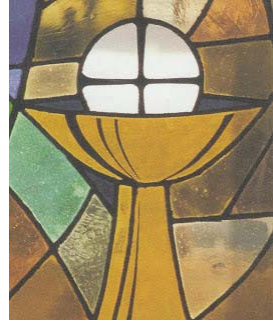
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THE WORD

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

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 (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory, now and forever, Amen, amen, amen.

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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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Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;
Holy, holy is He.
Sing a new song to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat.

Chorus

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You.

Verse 2

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power
Be to You, the only wise King.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

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Pastoral benediction and blessing –

And now, beloved, go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lectionary for next week: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Isaiah 58:9b-14;
Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Beloved, let us draw near to faith, since its powers are so great. For faith raised Enoch up to heaven. . . . It caused the barren to bear children. It delivered people from the sword. It raised us from the pit. It enriched the poor. It released the captives. It delivered the persecuted. It brought down fire. It divided the sea. It split the rock and gave water for the thirsty to drink. It satisfied the hungry. It raised the dead and brought them up from Sheol. It stilled the storm. It healed the sick. It conquered armies. It overthrew walls. It stopped the mouths of lions and quenched the flames of fire. It humiliated the proud and brought the humble honor When you have read and learned about the works of faith, you can be like the tilled land the good seed fell on. For it produced fruit of thirty-, sixty-, and a hundred-fold. Then, when you come to your Lord, He will call you a good servant, thoughtful and faithful. On account of His faith that abounds in you, you will enter the kingdom of your Lord..”

– Aphrahat

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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