



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

September 18, 2011 (Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

## GATHERING

Let us worship the eternal God,  
**the source of love and life, who creates us.**  
Let us worship Jesus Christ,  
**the risen One, who lives among us.**  
Let us worship the Spirit,  
**the holy fire, who renews us.**  
**To the one true God be praise**  
**in all times and places,**  
**through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

### *Invitatory*

Cantor: Lord, open our lips,  
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever,  
Forever. Amen, amen, amen.

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The Privilege of Praise, Mark Lawrence, Contemp



**I will exalt You, my God and King,**

**I will bless Your name forever and ever.**

**Every day I will bless You,**

**and I will praise Your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

His greatness is unsearchable.

*One generation shall praise Your works to another,  
and shall declare Your mighty acts.*

On the glorious splendor of Your majesty,  
and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.

*The might of Your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
and I will declare Your greatness.*

They shall celebrate the fame of Your abundant goodness,  
and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

*All Your works shall praise You, O Lord,  
and Your saints shall bless You.*

They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your  
power;

*To make known to the children of men Your mighty acts  
and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.*

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,**

**and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

**My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;**

**let every creature praise His holy name forever and ever.**

– Psalm 145:1-7, 10-13, 21

*How Great is our God*

*Verse 1*

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty:

Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,

And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice.

*Chorus*

How great is our God, sing with me

How great is our God;

And all will see how great,

How great is our God.



### *Verse 2*

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the End, beginning and the End.  
The Godhead Three in One: Father, Spirit, Son;  
The Lion and the Lamb, Lion and the Lamb.

### *Bridge*

Name above all names, Worthy of all praise;  
My heart will sing, How great is our God.

You're the name above all names  
You're worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing how great is our God

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### INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

### *All Creatures of Our God and King*

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam;  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness:  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One.  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623; hymn tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN.



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

**He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy and blameless before Him.**

*In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us.

*In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times;*

That is, the summing up of all things in Christ,  
things in the heavens and things upon the earth.

*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose, who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we should be to the praise of His glory.*

In Him, we also were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing  
in the heavenly places in Christ.**

– from Ephesians 1:3-14; Romans 11:36



Agnes Dei, Ulrich Leive, Contemp



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
Grant us peace.

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[Silent confessions]

**Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to You.  
We humbly confess our sins and ask Your mercy. We do not  
always love You with a pure heart. We do not always love our  
neighbor as ourselves. We do not always do justice and love  
kindness. We desire to walk humbly with You, in Your ways,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior.  
Have mercy on us, O God, in Your loving-kindness. Cleanse us  
from our sin, that we may live and walk, holy and blameless,  
before You.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.  
The Lord is good to all,  
and His tender mercies are over all His works.  
The Lord is near to all who call upon Him in truth;  
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;  
He also will hear their cry and save them.  
The Lord preserves those who love Him.

– from Psalm 145: 8, 14-20a



## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

Almighty and gracious God, we give You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all that You have made.

We bless You for the gift of life ...

We bless You for Your protection round about us ...

We bless You for Your provisions to us ...

We bless You for Your guiding hand upon us ...

We thank You for the expressions of Your love You continually lavish upon us every day ...

**With joy, we present our offerings, returning to You what You have first given to us, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### *When It's All Been Said and Done*

When it's all been said and done, there is just one thing that matters:  
Did I do my best to live for truth? Did I live my life for You?

When it's all been said and done, all my treasures will mean nothing;  
Only what I've done for love's reward will stand the test of time.

Lord, Your mercy is so great, that you look beyond our weakness;  
And find purest gold in miry clay, making sinners into saints.

I will always sing Your praise, here on earth and ever after;  
For You've shown me Heaven's my true home,  
When it's all been said and done;  
You're my life when life is gone.

When it's all been said and done, there is just one thing that matters:  
Did I do my best to live for truth? Did I live my life for You?  
Lord, I'll live my life for You.



## THE WORD

Philippians 1:21-30

## 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.

*Be Unto Your Name*

We are a moment, You are forever,  
Lord of the ages, God before time.  
We are a vapor, You are eternal,  
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

*Chorus*

Holy, holy, Lord God, Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.  
Highest praises, honor and glory  
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the healer;  
Jesus, Redeemer: mighty to save.  
You are the love song we'll sing forever,  
Bowing before You, blessing Your name.

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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### Benediction –

##### *God Be In My Head*

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

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

***A thought about worship...***– “The spiritual life is a passionate participation in God imitating the one and only human being fully united to God, Jesus. . . . Since God has already accepted us in Christ, who lifted our humanity up into his, and by the Spirit has done everything necessary to make us acceptable to God, the spiritual life is a freedom to participate in God, not a duty. In Jesus we are born again to become fully human, to be what God created us to be in the first place. So the spiritual life, this marriage we have with God, is an embodied union with God and with his vision for the world revealed to us in Jesus by the Spirit. Our spiritual life, then, is not just a feeling, an idea, or a spiritual romance. No! It is an embodiment of God’s vision for humanity clearly spoken in the words of Jesus and visualized in concrete ways in his action.” (Robert E. Webber, *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006, 174-175).

***Lectionary for next week:*** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4,12-16; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-9; Matthew 21:23-32

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.