



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

September 9, 2012 (Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

## GATHERING

Praise the LORD!

**Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

**He made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;**

**He keeps faith forever.**

He executes justice for the oppressed, He gives food to the hungry,  
and sets the prisoners free.

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind, He lifts up those who are  
bowed down, and loves the righteous.**

He watches over the stranger, and upholds the orphan and widow.

**The LORD will reign forever, our God, for all generations.**

**Praise the LORD!**

– Psalm 146



Christ Comforting a Poor Man, Luca\_della\_Robbia, c. 1493



*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!

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*Rejoice the Lord is King*

Rejoice the Lord is King; Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!  
The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love.  
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!  
The Lord is King!

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heav'n.  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!  
The Lord is King!

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

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.

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.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

**Christ Jesus,  
although He existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,  
but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant,  
being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form  
He humbled Himself  
and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a  
cross.**

**For this reason God also highly exalted Him  
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue will confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

– from Philippians 2:5-11



## *The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)*

Cantor:

And seeing the multitudes, Jesus went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying –

The people singing:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Cantor:

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and say  
falsely all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven; for in the  
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for those who love  
their neighbors have fulfilled the law.

*For all of the commandments are summed up in this word, “You shall  
love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor;  
therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.*

– Romans 13:8-10



[Silence]

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

*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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#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death.

*Those who look intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abide in it, not having become forgetful hearers but effectual doers, they will be blessed in what they do.*

– Romans 8:1-2, James 1:25

#### TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of God's work in our lives

Faith – Goodness – Knowledge – Self-control – Perseverance –  
Godliness – Mutual affection – Love.

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

– 2 Peter 1:5-8



### *Breathing the Breath*

We have nothing to give that didn't first come from Your hands.  
We have nothing to offer You which You did not provide.  
Every good perfect gift comes from Your kind and gracious heart;  
And all we do is give back to You what always has been Yours.

#### *Chorus*

Lord, we're breathing the breath that You gave us to breathe  
To worship You, to worship You.  
And we're singing these songs with the very same breath  
To worship You, to worship You.

#### *Verse 2*

Who has given to You that it should be paid back to him?  
Who has given to You as if You needed anything?  
From You and to You and through You come all things, O Lord;  
And all we do is give back to You what always has been Yours.

#### *Bridge*

We are breathing the breath that You gave us to breathe (repeat)

CCLI Song #4328876; ©2004 ThankYou Music; Matt Redman

### THE WORD

James 2:1-17

### THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ



Epiclesis

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**

*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.

CCLI Song #5003372; ©2007 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.



## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Rejoice the Lord is King (reprise)*

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come  
And take His servants up to their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!  
The Lord is King!

Wesley, Darwall. Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler

#### Benediction

Beloved, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,  
may we, with eyes of faith, gaze into the perfect law of liberty, so that  
we may be faithful doers of the word and not forgetful hearers,  
walking in His ways all our days. Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory  
throughout all ages.

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

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

“It is better for a man to be silent and be a Christian than to speak and not be a follower of Christ. Those who profess themselves to be Christ's are known not only by what they say, but also by what they practice. ‘For the tree is known by its fruit.’ It is better to be silent and be a Christian than to speak and not be a follower of Christ. ‘The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.’

People ‘believe with the heart and confess with the mouth,’ the one ‘unto righteousness,’ the other ‘unto salvation.’”  
– Ignatius

**Lectionary for next week:** Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; Isaiah 50:4-9a;  
Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

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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