



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

September 1, 2013 (Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

## GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the eternal God,  
the source of love and life, who creates and sustains us.

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**We come before Him with thanksgiving,  
and extol Him with music and song.  
For His steadfast love endures forever.**

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those He has redeemed from the  
hand of the enemy and gathered to Himself.

**Let them thank the LORD for His lovingkindness,  
For He satisfies the longing soul,  
and fills the hungry soul with goodness.**

O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

— from Psalms 95:1-2, 107:1-9, 34:3





*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

Brethren, we have met to worship  
And adore the Lord our God;  
Will you pray with all your power,  
While we try to preach the Word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit  
Of the Holy One comes down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna  
Will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us?  
Moses' sister aided him;  
Will you help the trembling mourners  
Who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior,  
Tell them that He will be found;  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna  
Will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.  
Then He'll call us home to Heaven, at His table we'll sit down;  
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Eternal God, You have called us to be members of one body.  
**Join us with those who in all times and places have praised Your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of Your church, and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**



*Holy is the Lord God Almighty*

And together we sing,  
Everyone sing:

Holy is the Lord God Almighty;  
The earth is filled with His glory.  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty;  
The earth is filled with His glory.  
The earth is filled with His glory.

We stand and lift up our hands  
For the joy of the Lord is our strength.  
We bow down and worship Him now;  
How great how awesome is He.

CCLI Song #4158039 ©2003 worshiptogether.com songs. Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us express our belonging to the church of all ages by professing our faith in these words from the Heidelberg Confession:

**I believe that the Son of God,  
through his Spirit and Word,  
out of the entire human race,  
from the beginning of the world to its end,  
gathers, protects, and preserves for Himself  
a community chosen for eternal life  
and united in true faith.**

**And of this community I am and always will be a living member.**

**The communion of saints—**

**believers one and all—as members of this community,  
share in Christ and in all His treasures and gifts.**

**Each member should consider it a duty**

**to use these gifts readily and cheerfully**

**for the service and enrichment of the other members.**

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 54-55



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral call to confession

You are the LORD our God,

You brought us up out of a living death;

**And You filled us with Your goodness.**

But at times in our history we have not heard Your voice;

**And at times we did not want to hear it.**

We have been stubborn

**And You have sometimes justly left us to our own devices.**

[Silent confessions]

But You long for us to listen to You,

**And to walk in Your ways.**

You long for us to allow You to stand between us

and the things that weigh down our lives;

**To turn Your hand against them.**

All that are against You would bow before Your power;

**And their time would be over forever.**

You would feed us with the best bread;

**And with purest honey from the rock You would satisfy us.**

[Silence]

Adapted from Jeff Shrowder, ©2000  
based on Psalm 81:10-16.

### *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

How blessed are those who fear the LORD,  
who greatly delight in His commandments.  
*Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.*  
Wealth and riches are in their house,  
and their righteousness endures forever.  
*Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
they are gracious and compassionate and righteous.*  
It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.  
*For the righteous will never be shaken;  
they will be remembered forever.*  
They will not be afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, trusting in the Lord.  
*Their hearts are steadfast, they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their enemies.*  
**Praise the LORD! Blessed are those who fear the LORD,  
who greatly delight in His commandments.**

– Psalm 112:1-9

## TIME OF OFFERING

Sharing words of thanksgiving and praise

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**Through Him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to  
God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name.**

– Hebrews 13:8, 15

## *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

My Shepherd will supply my need: Jehovah is His Name;  
In pastures fresh He makes me feed, beside the living stream.  
He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake His ways,  
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.



When I walk through the shades of death, His presence is my stay;  
One word of His supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
His hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows, His oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;  
O may Thy house be my abode, and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;  
No more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

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## THE WORD

Luke 14:1, 7-14

## 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 in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done  
On earth as in heav'n.  
Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us;  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours.  
Now and forever, Amen.

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*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

#### *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship (reprise)*

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.  
Then He'll call us home to Heaven, at His table we'll sit down;  
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

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#### Benediction:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have worshiped the Lord together in this place today.

**We've gathered; we've heard the word; we've come to the Table.**

**Now we ask God to send us out into the world, with joy,  
to love and serve the Lord.**

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

*Lectionary for next week:* Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

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

“Isn't God good? Consider how He fed thousands of the people in the wilderness with bread from heaven. He prevented famine and the people didn't even need to work for it. They enjoyed rest for forty years, their clothing didn't grow old, and their shoes didn't wear out. Isn't He good? He brought earth up to heaven, so that, just as the stars reflect His glory in the sky like a mirror, the choirs of apostles, martyrs, and priests shine like glorious stars and give light throughout the world. So then, He is not only good, but is more. He is a Good Shepherd . . . to His sheep, ‘for the good shepherd layeth down his life for his sheep.’ . . . It is to my advantage to believe that God is good, for ‘It is a good thing to trust in the Lord.’ It is good to confess that He is Lord, for it is written: ‘Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good’.”

– Ambrose

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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