



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

September 28, 2014 (Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Reader

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, things that we have heard and known, that our father have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

In the sight of their fathers He performed wonders,
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

*He divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap.*

In the daytime He led them with a cloud,
and all the night with a fiery light.

*He split rocks in the wilderness,
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.*

He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

*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. They tell of the glory of Your kingdom, and speak of Your might.

**All Your works shall praise You, O LORD;
and we, Your faithful people, shall bless You.**

– from Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; 145:3-5, 10





We Bow Down

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,
And Lord of all lords You will be.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
Lord of all lords You will be.

You are King of creation and King of my life,
King of the land and the sea.
You were King of the heavens before there was time,
And King of all kings You will be.

We bow down and we crown You the King,
We bow down and we crown You the King,
We bow down and we crown You the King,
King of all kings You will be.

CCLI Song #20003. ©1984 New Spring. Twila Paris.
CCLI License # 3097801

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's redeeming love.



Hitherto Thy love has blest me,
Thou hast brought me to this place.
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger
Bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Your goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Your courts above.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2003 Ellen Koehler. Text, Robert Robinson; Hymn tune: NETTLETON;
traditional American melody, John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

PROFESSION OF FAITH

When the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement.

– Titus 3:4-8a

**My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own,
but belong – body and soul, in life and in death –
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing
and ready from now on to live for Him.**

– from Heidelberg Catechism, #1



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast love,
For they have been from of old.

*Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
According to Your steadfast love remember me,
For Your goodness' sake, O Lord!*

– Psalm 25:6-7

Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You. We confess that we have allowed our hearts to be drawn away from our rest in You. We have sought after many things, and too easily neglected Your ways. We have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

[Silence]

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in Your ways, and worship You in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

Oh, precious is the flow,
That makes me white as snow.
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Words and music: Robert Lowry. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the promise of God:

I will sprinkle you with clean water and you will be clean.

I will give you a new heart

and put a new spirit within you.

I will remove from you your heart of stone,

and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My ways.

You will be My people, and I will be your God.

—from Ezekiel 36:25-29

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and testimonies of God's faithfulness

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

All the way my Savior leads me; What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know whate'er befalls me, Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know whate'er befalls me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread.
Tho' my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! a spring of joy I see;
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! a spring of joy I see.

All the way my Savior leads me; O the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal, wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song thro' endless ages: "Jesus led me all the way."
This my song thro' endless ages: "Jesus led me all the way."

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2009 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Text : Fanny J. Crosby; Tune: Robert Lowry



THE WORD

Exodus 17:1-7

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 us 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





Fountain of Grace

You have been faithful when I have been faithless,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
Forever giving when I have been selfish,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Still the beginning of all that is holy,
Unsearchable Ancient of Days.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You were the constant when I chose to wander,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
You were forgiveness when I cried for mercy,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You are the author of all that is finished,
I owe You my life and my praise.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Pour out the water of life on this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Words and Music by Twila Paris.
©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by EMI Publishing)

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

We Bow Down (reprise)

We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
Lord of all lords You will be.

CCLI Song #20003. ©1984 New Spring. Twila Paris.



Benediction:

People of God, we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord remembering this:

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, our Father God has seen the blood of His beloved Son in the covenant meal of remembrance we have shared. And in the power of the Holy Spirit, we leave the enslavements of our ancient enemy behind us and head towards the Land of Promise. Now, let us depart from this place, walking out our baptisms into an uncertain wilderness, but still guided by that mighty hand and outstretched arm, in joy and filled with the water of life.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7;
Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Special readings for next week: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Psalm 147:12-20;
1 Corinthians 10:16-17; John 6:51-58

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.

©2014 E.K