



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

September 15, 2013 (Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Give thanks to the LORD with a whole heart;
tell of all His wonderful works.

**We will be glad and exult in Him;
and sing praises to the name of the Most High.**

Bow down toward His holy temple in worship, and give thanks
to His name for His unfailing love and faithfulness.

For He has exalted His name and His word above all things.

**On the day I called, He answered me;
He increased the strength of my soul.**

The LORD will fulfill His purpose for us;
He will not forsake the work of His hands;
His steadfast love endures forever.

**O give thanks to the LORD and sing of His ways,
for great is the glory of the Lord!**

– from Psalm 138

The Lost Sheep, Daniel Bonnell,
Contemp.





Immortal Invisible (Your Great Name We Praise)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise!

Verse 2

Unresting, unceasing, and silent as light;
Not wanting or wasting, You rule us in might.
Your justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Chorus

Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise!

Verse 3

All life comes from You, Lord, to both great and small;
In all life You live, Lord, the true Life of all.
We blossom and flourish but quickly grow frail;
We wither and perish, but You never fail.

Verse 4

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light;
Your angels adore You, all veiling their sight.
All praise we will render, oh Father of Grace;
Till one day in splendor we see face to face.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ Who died for me.
How He left His home in glory for the cross of Calvary.

Chorus:

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ Who died for me.
Sing it with the saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost, but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray,
Threw His loving arms around me, drew me back into His way.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader:

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in the words
of this text of the ancient church:

WE KNOW, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND WE HOLD WITH FIRMEST FAITH,
THAT CHRIST DIED FOR US BUT ONCE:

the Righteous for sinners,
the Master for slaves,
the Free for captives,
the Doctor for the sick,
the Happy for the miserable,
the Rich for the needy,
the Seeker for the lost,
the Redeemer for the sold,
the Shepherd for the sheep,

AND WHAT IS MOST AWE-INSPIRING OF ALL:

the Creator for the created.

– Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430)



Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

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Hymn tune: NEW BRITAIN.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The Psalmist attests:

Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”

*The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of men
to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.*

– Psalm 14:1a, 2

For though the LORD is exalted,

Yet He regards the lowly, but the proud He knows from afar.

– Psalm 138:6

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O Lord, my God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
(Repeat)

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord;
Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation,
And renew a right spirit within me.

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Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in
Your sight; and so You are justified in Your sentence
and upright in Your judgment.**

[Silence]

Surely, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Yet behold, You desire truth in my inward being;
therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Make me to hear joy and gladness,
that the bones You have broken may rejoice.**

**Hide Your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

– Psalm 51:1-10

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

**Thanks be to God, from whom we have received mercy and
overflowing grace, along with the faith and love that are in
Christ Jesus.**

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor
and glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

– based on 1 Timothy 1:12-17



TIME OF OFFERING

Sharing words of thanksgiving and praise

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

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THE WORD

Luke 15:1-10

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**

Lamb of God

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love, they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died;
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

Oh, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God.

Oh, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Amazing Grace

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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Benediction:

Now, beloved, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord – Go in peace, in the knowledge of God's saving power. Go in confidence, in the knowledge of His keeping strength. Go in joy, in the knowledge His everlasting love.

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lectionary for next week: Jeremiah 8:16-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113;
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“If God rejoices over the little one that is found, how do you despise those God earnestly cares for? We should give up even our lives for one of these little ones. But are the lost ones weak and contemptible? Then it is even more important that we do everything we can to preserve them. Even Christ left the ninety-nine sheep and went after the one. He took advantage of the safety of so many to prevent the loss of one. Luke says that He even brought the lost one home on His shoulders. And ‘There was greater joy over one sinner that repenteth, than over ninety and nine just persons.’ By His leaving the saved ones for it, and by His taking more pleasure in this one He showed how greatly He valued it. So then, don't be careless about such souls. . . . For our neighbors' sake, don't refuse to do any of the tasks that seem lowly and troublesome. . . . For a soul is so important to God that ‘He spared not His own Son..’”
– Chrysostom

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
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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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