



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

October 16, 2011 (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless His name;

proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

Declare His glory among the nations

and His wonders among all the peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;

Honor and majesty are before Him;

Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

Bring an offering, and come into His courts.

In the presence of the faithful we proclaim His name, for it is good.

His faithfulness continues through all generations!

— from Psalm 96 and 100:5



Church of the Rotunda, Thessaloniki, Greece, 306 AD



Holy is the Lord God Almighty

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.

Pre-chorus

And together we sing; Everyone sing:

Chorus

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.

Bridge

It is rising up all around; It's the anthem of the Lord's renown.
(repeat)

CCLI Song No. 4158039; ©2003 worshiptogether.com songs; Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Holy is the Lord God Almighty

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

We Fall Down

We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus.
The greatness of mercy and love at the feet of Jesus.

And we cry holy, holy, holy; we cry holy, holy, holy;
We cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

CCLI Song No. 2437367; ©1998 worshiptogether.com songs; Chris Tomlin



You are God; we praise You.

You are the Lord; we acclaim You.

You are the Eternal Father: All creation worships You.

To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

– from *Te Deum laudamus* (“Thee, O God, we praise”)

A hymn of the early church, fourth century.

Attributed to church fathers Ambrose and Augustine.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us continue our profession of faith and praise, and our belief in God’s story and His purposes for humanity and all creation, in the words of this hymn of the ancient church:

The glorious company of apostles praises you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praises you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praises you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims You;

Father of majesty unbounded,

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When You became man to set us free

You did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Leader: Come then, Lord, and help Your people,
bought with the price of Your own blood,
and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

– from *Te Deum laudamus*



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession:

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 –

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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

[Silent confessions]



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

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be strengthened and encouraged by these words drawn from Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians:

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters, that He has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit with full conviction. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all believers.

And in every place your faith in God has become known, how you turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is to come. – from 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10



TIME OF OFFERING

Prayers and words of thanksgiving and dedication

Holy and loving God, You have graciously called us to be Your own, and made us complete in You. No words could ever express all that You've done, nor all that we have because of Your love. So we lay at Your feet all that we have and all that we are, in worship and gratitude and love.

In the Beauty of Holiness

In the beauty of holiness
We see You, Son of righteousness,
So we bring all that we possess
To lay at Your feet.
In the place where Your glory shines,
Jesus lover of all mankind,
You have drawn us with love divine
To make us complete.

Chorus

So I pause at Your gates once more,
As my heart and my spirit soar,
And I wish I could love You more:
My God and my King!



Holy Light, Alexander Sadoyan, Contemporary

Verse 2

Is there tribute that I could bring,
Was there ever a song to sing,
That could ever express, my King,
The work that You've done?
Could I ever conceive of this,
All the depths and the heights and breadth,
Of the riches I now possess
Because of Your love?



THE WORD

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

Flow Like a River

Flow like a river, fall like the rain;
Streams of compassion flow from His throne.
Wide as the ocean, deep as the sea;
Life-giving fountain, is God's love for me.

Feast at the table of mercy,
Drink from the cup of His grace.
Dwell in His infinite goodness,
Live in His healing embrace.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Holy is the Lord God Almighty

Holy is the Lord God Almighty;
Heaven and earth are filled with His glory.
Holy is the Lord God Almighty;
Heaven and earth are filled with His glory.
Heaven and earth are filled with His glory.

CCLI Song No. 4158039; ©2003 worshiptogether.com songs; Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
Additional lyric: Ellen Koehler

Benediction:

We have declared our belief in God's story –
Creation, Incarnation, Re-Creation.

We have committed to participating in His purposes for us and the
world, walking in a manner worthy of our calling in Him.

And we have celebrated our fellowship in community with each other
and with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Let us proclaim with the ancient church:

We believe, we behave, we belong.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship...– “Here then is Christian spirituality: We are spiritual because of God's divine embrace of humanity and all creation. By his own two hands—the incarnate Word and the Spirit—God's divine embrace has restored our union with himself for us. He has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves—re-establish the connection with God that we ourselves broke in our rebellion.” (Robert E. Webber, *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006, 142).

Lectionary for next week: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:15-22

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.

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