



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

October 23, 2011 (Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

We have gathered to worship the eternal God,
the Source of love and life, who creates us.

**We have gathered to worship Jesus Christ,
the Risen One, who lives among us.**

We have gathered to worship the Spirit,
the Holy Fire, who constantly renews us.

**To the one true God be praise
in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

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!

Chorus

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

Verse 2

Unresting, unending, 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.



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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Come Thou, Almighty King

Come Thou, Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise.
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Immortal Invisible (chorus)

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

Come Thou, Almighty King (verse 4)

To Thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be,
Hence evermore; Thy sov'reign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever You had formed the earth and the world,

From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

—Psalm 90:1-2

Beati/Psalm 1

Refrain:

Beati, in domo Domini

(Happy are they who dwell in God's house)

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Refrain

Blessed are those who do not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful.

But their delight is in the law of the LORD,

and in His law they meditate day and night.

They will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,

which yield their fruit in its season;

their leaves never wither, and whatever they do prospers.

Refrain

But the wicked are not so; they are like the chaff which the wind drives
away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the path of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Refrain



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession:

One of the Pharisees, an expert in the law, asked Jesus a question to test Him: “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

And Jesus answered him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

– Matthew 22:35-40

[Silent confessions]

Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We do not always love you with a pure heart. We do not always love our neighbor as ourselves. We do not always do justice and love kindness. We desire to walk humbly with You, in Your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. Cleanse us from our sin, that we may be holy and blameless before You.

Cleanse Me

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill Thy Word and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify Thy name.



Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine;
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord; in me abide.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news!
Who is in a position to condemn?

*Only Christ; and Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.*

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

– from Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and dedication

God of glory, You created all that is, and with love formed us in Your image. All that we are, and all that we have, are gifts and a trust from You. In gratitude we return to You what is Yours: Your tithes and our offerings. Receive them, we pray, as expressions of our worship and desire to glorify Your name always.



Glorify Your Name

Your presence, Your glory
You're welcome here
All honor, dominion
Lord, please come near
We want You, we need You
We live to glorify Your name

Chorus

Glorify Your name
Glorify Your name
Glorify the name above all names

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THE WORD

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Mathew 22:34-46

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.**



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.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

How Great is our God

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God;
And all will see how great,
How great is our God.

Name above all names, Worthy of all praise;
My heart will sing, How great is our God.

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Benediction:

And now, brothers and sisters, as we go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord, encouraged in His love and calling;
Let us boldly proclaim in concert with the ancient church:
We believe, we belong, we behave.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship...— “With whom do you identify? Are you committed to follow the nature of rebellion against God’s purposes for life inherited from Adam, or are you willing to say, “I need to have my nature formed by the second Adam, the one who is in full union with the purpose God has for his creatures and the world”? The question is “With whom do you identify—Adam or Jesus?” To enter God’s embrace means a continuous turning from Adam-identity to Jesus-identity.” (Robert E. Webber, *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006, 151).

Lectionary for next week: Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

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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