



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

October 7, 2012 (Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bless the Lord

Israel Houghton, Cindy Ratcliff

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CCLI Song #4194316

GATHERING

Antiphonal Reading

– “Epic Kids”

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.

You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength, silencing
your enemies and all who oppose you.

*When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers –
the moon and the stars you set in place –*

What are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?

*Yet you made them only a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

You gave them charge of everything you made,
putting all things under their authority –

*The flocks and the herds, and all the wild animals,
the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
and everything that swims the ocean currents.*

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

– Psalm 8, NLT



Jesus and the Children,
Michael O'Brien, Contemp.



Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore Him;
Praise Him, angels in the height.
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made.

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;
Never shall His promise fail.
God hath made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
Hosts on high, His power proclaim.
Heaven and earth and all creation,
Laud and magnify His Name.

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,
In glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;
We would bow before Thy throne.
As Thine angels serve before Thee,
So on earth Thy will be done.

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,
In glad homage bend the knee.



Praise, Jessica Bennett, 2007

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Edward Osler (vs. 3). Hymn tune: HOLY MANNA
(William Moore, *The Columbian Harmony*, 1825)



INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

We will bless the LORD, at all times;

His praise shall continually be in our mouths.

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

His greatness is unsearchable.

All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,

and Your faithful followers shall bless You.

One generation shall praise Your works to another,

and shall declare Your mighty acts.

We will speak of Your glory and Your power,

to make known Your acts and the glory of Your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

– from Psalms 34 and 145



Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ:

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him;

In love, He predestined us to adoption as His children, in accordance with His pleasure and His will;

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to His grace;

He has made known to us the mystery of His will, to bring all things in heaven and on earth into unity in Christ;

Having believed in Him, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, the guarantee of our inheritance in Him, to the praise of His glory.

In the exceeding greatness of His power, He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ.**

– from Ephesians 1:3-21

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.

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PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Leader: O LORD, who may abide in Your tent?
Who may dwell on Your holy hill?



Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
whose walk is blameless, and who do what is righteous;
*Those who speak the truth from their hearts, who do no wrong to a
neighbor, and honor those who fear the LORD.*
They shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness
from the God of their salvation; they will never be shaken.

– from Psalms 15 and 24

Lord God, our Maker, how many are Your blessings to us each day.
Yet, too often we do not recognize Your hand of blessing. We fail to
rejoice in Your gifts, and do not share Your love and goodness with
others. We do not always love others as You have loved us, or treat
others as we would like them to treat us.

Lord, in Your grace and mercy, forgive us.

[Silent confessions]

**Lord, help us to spread Your goodness everywhere we go. Flood
our souls with Your spirit and life. Shine through us, so that
everyone will feel and see Your presence in us. We love You, and
want to live for You. Amen.**

– adapted from a prayer by John Henry Newman

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Songs and Prayers from Taizé; ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is
covered. Blessed are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. – from Psalm 32:1-2
The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us.
*He will bless those who fear the LORD, the small together with the
great.* – Psalm 115:12-13



TIME OF OFFERING

Meditation

The word of the Lord:

“I will make a covenant of peace with them [My people], ... and I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing.”

– Ezekiel 34:25-26

Christ left us here to be lights. . . . We should go about as angels among people. . . . In this way they can profit as we become seeds bearing copious fruit.

– Chrysostom

The Blessing

Let it be said of us while we walked among the living,
Let it be said of us by the ones we leave behind,
Let it be said of us that we lived to be a blessing for life.

And let it be said of us that we gave to reach the dying.
Let it be said of us, by the fruit we leave behind
Let it be said of us that our legacy is blessing for life.

Chorus:

This day, You set life, You set death right before us.
This day, ev'ry blessing and curse is a choice now.
And we will choose to be a blessing for life.

Let it be said of us that our hearts belonged to Jesus.
Let it be said of us that we spoke the words of life.
Let it be said of us that our heritage is blessing for life.

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THE WORD

Genesis 48:1-20

Mark 10:13-16

Luke 24:50-51





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.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)



The Coming of the Holy Spirit,
Soichi Watanabe, Contemp.

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.

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John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

As We Go

As we go, may Your Spirit go before us;
As we go, may we follow where You lead.
May we live what we have learned,
Share the message we have heard,
And be a light unto the world as we go.

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Benediction:

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.

– Numbers 6:24-26

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Christ left us here to be lights. We are here to teach others and be like leaven in dough. We should go about as angels among people, as adults among children, as spiritual people among those who are natural. In this way they can profit as we become seeds bearing copious fruit. There is no need to speak if we shine through our lives. There is no need for teachers if we only demonstrate through our works. There would be no unbelievers if we were the Christians we should be. Everyone would convert to godliness if we generally kept the commandments of Christ, suffered through insults, allowed others to take advantage of us, blessed when we were cursed and did good when treated poorly. For example, Paul was only one man, yet how many followed him? If we were all like him, how many worlds could we have following us?”
– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Amos 5:6-15;
Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

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.

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