



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

October 6, 2013 (Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost)

## GATHERING

We have gathered to praise and worship the LORD, our God.

**He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.**

*Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of wrongdoers.*

*For they will soon wither like the grass and fade like the green herb.*

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

*Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him and He will bring it to pass.

*He will bring forth your righteousness as the light of dawn, and your justice as the noonday sun.*

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him.

**Those who wait for the LORD will inherit the earth, and will delight themselves in the abundance of peace.**

*The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;*

*He is their strength in time of trouble.*

**The LORD helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in Him.**



— from Psalm 37

My Portion, R. Palme  
Contemp.



*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

*Wait for the Lord*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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## PROFESSION OF FAITH

### *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day He rose again;  
He ascended to heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**  
**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Let us examine our ways and test them,  
And let us return to the LORD.  
Let us lift our hearts and our hands to God in heaven...  
— Lamentations 3:40-41

[Silent confessions]

### *The Jesus Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
Have mercy on me, a sinner.  
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's covenant promise to His people:

"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

– Jeremiah 31:33-34

It is because of the LORD'S lovingkindness that we are not consumed,  
for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning.

Great is Your faithfulness.

**"The LORD is my portion," says my soul;**

**"therefore I have hope in Him."**

**The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,  
to the soul who seeks Him.**

**It is good to hope in the salvation of the LORD.**

– from Lamentations 3:21-26

## MEDITATION ON THE PSALM

Reader:

By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down  
and there we wept when we remembered Zion.

On the willows there we hung our harps.

For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked  
for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember  
you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy

– Psalm 137:1-6

## *God of Memory*

God of memory, I remember

How our captors wanted song.

I will not forget the willows

Where our silent harps were hung.



### *Refrain*

God whose memory holds the future,  
God whose mercy holds the past,  
God whose listening is our present,  
You will bring us home at last.

### *Verse 2*

God of memory, I remember burning, broken city wall.  
I will not forget the city, cherish Zion over all.

### *Verse 3*

God of memory, I remember children tumbling, not in play.  
I will not forget the longing, to strike back in that same way.

Words: Richard Leach, 1994; based on Psalm 137. ©Selah Publishing Co. Hymn tune: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1890. In *Psalms for All Seasons*, compiled by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and Faith Alive Christian Resources. ©2012 Faith Alive Christian Resources.

## TIME OF OFFERING

Sharing words of God's faithfulness

### *He's Always Been Faithful*

Morning by morning I wake up to find  
The power and comfort of God's hand in mine.  
Season by season I watch Him amazed,  
In awe of the mystery of His perfect ways.  
All I have need of His hand will provide;  
He's always been faithful to me.

I can't remember a trial or a pain  
He did not recycle to bring me gain.  
I can't remember one single regret  
In serving God only and trusting His hand.  
All I have need of His hand will provide;  
He's always been faithful to me.



### *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

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Text: Thomas O. Chisholm | Music: William M. Runyan

This is my anthem, this is my song,  
The theme of the story I've heard for so long:  
God has been faithful, He will be again;  
His loving compassion, it knows no end.  
All I have need of His hand will provide.  
He's always been faithful, He's always been faithful,  
He's always been faithful to me.

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### THE WORD

Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26

### 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**

*The Solid Rock*

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Chorus:*

On Christ the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.

*Verse 2*

When darkness veils His lovely face I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

*Verse 3*

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

*Verse 4*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)*

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again;  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

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**Benediction:**

Beloved, we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,  
bearing these words of Chrysostom in our minds and hearts: God  
brought us into being, and when we had fallen, raised us up again;  
He left nothing undone until He brought us to Heaven and graciously  
gave us His future kingdom.  
Now let us walk out our baptisms, with joy, in this present confidence  
and future hope.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Readings for next Sunday:** Genesis 3:8-10; 1 Corinthians 15:40-49; Matthew 3:13-17

**Lectionary for next week:** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c;  
Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

***A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –***

“Not everyone can say, ‘The Lord is my portion.’ The covetous person can’t, for covetousness comes close and says, ‘You are my portion. I have you under my authority. You have served me. You have sold yourself to me with that gold; by that possession you have submitted yourself to me.’ The indulgent person also can’t say, ‘Christ is my portion.’ For luxury comes and says, ‘You are my portion. I made you mine in that banquet. I caught you in the net of that feast. I hold you by the bond of your gluttony. Don’t you know that your table was more valuable to you than your life?’ . . . Traitors can’t say, ‘Christ is my portion.’ For the wickedness of their sin rushes on them and says, ‘They are deceiving you, Lord Jesus, because they are mine.’ . . . How many masters does one have who has forsaken the One! But we must not forsake Him. Who would forsake the One they follow if they were bound by chains of love? These chains set free and don’t bind. . . . It is more glorious for us to be bound by Him than to be set free and liberated from others.”

– Ambrose

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
[www.Epiclesis.org](http://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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