



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

November 9, 2014 (Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

Who is like You, O God, Majestic in holiness,
Awesome in praises, working wonders?

**Your faithfulness surrounds You, O God;
Your steadfast love is established forever!**

One generation shall praise Your works to another,
and shall declare Your mighty acts.

**They shall celebrate the fame of Your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.**

All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,
and all Your faithful shall bless You.

**They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and tell of Your
power, to make known to the children of men Your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.**

Who is like You, O God, our King?

Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting;
Your dominion endures throughout all ages.

**My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;
let every creature bless His holy name forever and ever!**

– Scripture weaving from Exodus 15:11, Psalms 93 and 145



Esther Before Ahasuerus, Giovanni
Andrea Sirani, c. 1630



O, Worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
Oh, girded with praise.

O tell of His might and sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is the path on the wings of the storm.
Oh, sing of His grace.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
Oh, worship the King, worship the King.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.
Redeemer and Friend, He's our Redeemer and Friend,
Oh, worship the King. Worship the King.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2004 Ellen Koehler. Words: Robert Grant, in *Christian Psalmody*, 1833; adapted from William Kethe, the *Genevan Psalter*, 1561. Hymn tune: LYONS, attributed to Johann M. Hadyn.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!



Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend, to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Words, Christian H. Bateman (*Sacred Melodies for Children*, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1843). Hymn tune: MADRID (EVANS), traditional Spanish melody.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**Oh, the depth of the riches
of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments
and unfathomable His ways!
For from Him and through Him and to Him
are all things; to Him be glory forever.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,
restoring the soul;

*The testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple.*

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

*The commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes.*

The fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;

*The judgments of the LORD are true;
they are righteous altogether.*

They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

*Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

**Your testimonies are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.**

**I have inclined my heart to keep your statutes forever,
even to the end.**

– Rom. 11: 33, 36; Psalm 19:7-11, 119:111-112



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Who can discern their own errors? Cleanse me from hidden faults.
Keep back Your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule over me.

Then I will be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to You, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

– Psalm 19:12-14

[Silent confessions]

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blest are the Pure in Heart

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836). Public domain.
Music: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here is the good news of God's salvation and His promise of pardon:

God demonstrates His own love for us in this:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light! For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

– from Romans 5:8 and Colossians 1:12-14

Thanks be to God!



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise:

Sovereign Lord,

In worship, with joy and thanksgiving, we offer to You what You have first given to us – our moments and days, our hands and feet, our voices, our lips, our minds, our silver and gold, our wills, our hearts, our love, our whole selves. May we be always, only, all for Thee.

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use ev'ry power as Your choose.

Chorus:

Here am I, all of me;
Take my life, it's all for Thee.

Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Your feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

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THE WORD

Esther 1 – 3

Matthew 25:1-13



The Parable of the Ten Virgins, Ain Vares, Contemp.

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 us 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 Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
And my spirit exults in God my Savior.
For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness,
And His name will be forever exalted.
For the mighty God has done great things for me,
And His mercy will reach from age to age.

And holy, holy, holy is His name.

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Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Who was and is, and is to come.
Who was and is, and is to come.

Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

CCLI Song #1540719. ©1995 Thankyou Music. Nathan Fellingham

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Magnificat, Macha Chmakoff, Contemp.





Come, Christians, Join to Sing (reprise)

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Words, Christian H. Bateman (*Sacred Melodies for Children*, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1843). Hymn tune: MADRID (EVANS), traditional Spanish melody.

Benediction

Now, as you go forth into the world, in joy, to love and serve the Lord, do so remembering that He who calls you is faithful. And may He grant that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Humility enables us to submit to what is above us, and nothing is higher above us than God. By making us submit to God, humility lifts us up. But pride, a defect of nature, is refusing to submit to and opposing the Supreme One. As a result, pride falls to a low state. It is written, ‘Thou castedst them down when they lifted up themselves.’ The writer doesn’t say, ‘when they had been lifted up,’ as if first they were raised up and then thrown down. But ‘when they lifted up themselves,’ they were thrown down—that is, the very lifting up was already a fall. Therefore, humility is especially valuable to the city of God. It is exhibited in the city of God and in the person of Christ its King. On the other hand, the Scriptures say that the wickedness of pride rules over Christ’s enemy, the devil. Certainly this is the difference between the cities of godly people and of ungodly people. . . one guided and formed by the love of self, the other by love of God.” – Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; Zephaniah 1:7,12-18; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30; Esther 4-10

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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