



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

October 28, 2012 (Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Bless the Lord

For He is great and mighty.
For He is great and greatly to be praised.
For He is great in mercy.
I will bless His holy name.
For He is great in power.
For He is great, a fortress is our God.
For He is great in strength and honor.
I will bless the Lord of all.

Bless the Lord, bless the Lord,
At all times, at all times.
Bless the Lord, bless the Lord,
At all times, at all times –
I will bless You with all that is within me,
I will bless the Lord.

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Israel Houghton and Cindy Ratcliff.



Let us bless the Lord at all times!

**His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make
its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear it and be glad!**

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

**I sought the Lord, and He heard me,
and delivered me from all my fears.**

Those who look to the Lord are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.

**The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him,
and delivers them.**

O taste and see that the Lord is good:

How blessed are those who trust in Him!

—from Psalm 34:1-8



Bless the Lord (chorus)

Bless the Lord, bless the Lord,
At all times, at all times.
Bless the Lord, bless the Lord,
At all times, at all times –
I will bless You with all that is within me,
I will bless the Lord.



Psalm 34, Moshe Tzvi HaLevi Berger, Contemp.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
Let us exalt His name together.

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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PROFESSION OF FAITH

**God was pleased, in His eternal purpose,
to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son,
to be the mediator between God and human beings.**

**As the mediator, He is the prophet, priest, and king,
the head and Savior of the church, the heir of all things,
and the judge of the world.**

**God gave to Him, from all eternity,
a people to be His seed and to be by Him, in time,
redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.**

**The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself –
which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up to God –
has fully satisfied the justice of His Father.**

**He purchased not only reconciliation but also an everlasting
inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the
Father has given to Him.**

—from Westminster Confession (MESV), Chap. VIII, Sec. 1, 5

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The words of the psalmist:

Come, children, and listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

*Who among you desires life and loves many days,
that you may see good?*

Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit;

Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

– Psalm 34:11-14

[Silence]

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name;

And deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake.

– Psalm 70:9

[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.

©2002 Petaluma Music; Setting by David Baker

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. He is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who have a contrite spirit.

The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

– from Psalm 34:15, 18, 22

We have such a High Priest – holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He continues forever. *He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

– from Hebrews 7:24-26

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of gratitude and praise . . .



Worthy of Worship

Worthy of worship, worthy of praise,
Worthy of honor and glory;
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing,
Worthy of all of the off' rings we bring.

Chorus

You are worthy, Father, Creator.
You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful;
Worthy of worship and praise.

Verse 2

Worthy of rev' rence, worthy of fear,
Worthy of love and devotion;
Worthy of bowing and bending of knees,
Worthy of all this and added to these...

Verse 3

Almighty Father, Master and Lord,
King of all kings and Redeemer,
Wonderful Counselor, Comforter, Friend,
Savior and Source of our life without end;

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THE WORD

Hebrews 7:23-28



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)



Before the Throne of God Above

Before the Throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose Name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

Before Him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am,
The King of glory and of grace:
One in Himself I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His Blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God.

Public Domain. Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Gaelic hymn tune

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



Bless the Lord (chorus)

Bless the Lord, bless the Lord,
At all times, at all times.
Bless the Lord, bless the Lord,
At all times, at all times –
I will bless You with all that is within me,
I will bless the Lord.

CCLI Song #4194316 ©2003 Integrity's Praise! Music. Israel Houghton and Cindy Ratcliff.

Benediction:

And now, beloved, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, eternal Savior, and King; and the love of God; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us and go with us all – as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Our confession must not contain lazy or deliberately vague words. There must not be any space between our heart and lips, lest what should be the confession of true reverence become a mask for evil. The Word must be near us and within us. There must not be any delay between the heart and the lips. We must have a faith of conviction as well as of words. . . . The Apostle Paul explains the prophet's words: "That is the word of faith, which we preach; because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved." True devotion consists in rejecting doubt, and in righteousness from believing, and salvation from confessing. Don't dally with ambiguities. Don't babble vainly. Don't debate God's powers in any way or try to limit His strength. Stop searching over and over again for the causes of unsearchable mysteries. . . . Faith lies in simplicity, righteousness in faith, and true godliness in confession. For God doesn't call us to the blessed life through tiring investigations. He doesn't tempt us with rhetoric. The way to eternity is plain and easy: believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess that He is the Lord. . . . Jesus Christ died so that we could live in Him.”

– Hilary of Poitiers

Lectionary for next week: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Deuteronomy 6:1-9;
Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

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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