



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

November 16, 2014 (Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

The LORD reigns, He is robed in majesty!

**The LORD has clothed and girded Himself with strength;
He has established the world; it will not be moved.**

The LORD on high is mighty.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

Your testimonies are sure;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

Ascribe to the LORD, all you peoples;

Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Splendor and majesty are before Him,

Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

Bring an offering and come into His courts.

We will worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness,

and say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”

For the LORD has done marvelous things!

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised!

Come, let us bless His name together;

Let us worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 45, 93 and 96

The Throne of God and the Lamb, Marcia Hind, Contemp.





We Bow Down

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,
And Lord of all lords You will be.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
We bow down and we worship You, Lord,
Lord of all lords You will be.

You are King of creation and King of my life,
King of the land and the sea.
You were King of the heavens before there was time,
And King of all kings You will be.

We bow down and we crown You the King, (3 times)
King of all kings You will be.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

How Great is our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty:
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice.

Chorus

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

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands:
Beginning and the End, beginning and the End.
The Godhead Three in One: Father, Spirit, Son;
The Lion and the Lamb, Lion and the Lamb.



Bridge

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

You're the name above all names; You're worthy of all praise
My heart will sing how great is our God

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in these
words from the epistles of the Apostle Paul:

Christ Jesus existed in the form of God –

for in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

*Although He was in the form of God, He did not regard equality with
God as something to be grasped.*

But He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant,
being born in human likeness.

*And being found in human form, He humbled Himself,
and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.*

**For this reason God also highly exalted Him,
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

– from Colossians 1:19, 2:9; Philippians 2:5-11

All Creatures of Our God and King (verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One;
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Public Domain; Text: St. Francis of Assisi, transl. William H. Draper
Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

– Hebrews 4:14-16

[Silence]

Holy and merciful God, You have crowned Jesus Lord of all. Yet, in Your presence we confess that we do not always bow before Him; we are often slow to acknowledge His rule, and fail to live as Your covenant people. We have not loved You with a whole heart. We have acted out of selfish ambition, and have not valued others above our own interests. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. In your mercy, forgive us, that we may be Your faithful people, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your name.

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 good news indeed:

Almighty God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

– Colossians 1:13-14, Romans 5:1-2



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise:

Sovereign and gracious Lord,
through Your goodness and mercies You have blessed us with all we have, and all we are. With gratitude we willingly give back to You what is Yours. As covenant people we lift our lives up to You, bringing our humble offering of worship and honor and praise.

We Humbly Bow

We humbly bow before You now,
We lift our lives up to You.
On our knees we bring our humble offering
Of worship and honor and praise.

Chorus

Boldly we come to Your throne, O Father,
But only by grace can we come.
We've been bought by the precious blood of the Lamb.
We lay down our lives before You,
Jesus, we willingly give You all,
As humbly at Your feet we fall.
For it's the highest place of all, O Lord.

Verse 2

On this holy ground our hearts bow down,
Your awesome splendor overwhelms.
But there is no fear, for Jesus You are here;
Your shed blood has made us a way.

CCLI Song #1270955 ©1994 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Tom Brooks



THE WORD

Esther 4 – 10

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.



Esther Appeals to King Ahashvayrosh
Lilian Broca, Mosaic, Contemp.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins
As we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory, now and forever,
Amen, amen, amen.

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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;
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,
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 with 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
With Christ my Savior and my God.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2014.

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

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



All Creatures of Our God and King (verse 6)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below:
O Praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Benediction

Beloved, we go forth into the world, remembering our baptisms with joy, to love and serve the Lord, our sovereign and holy King, and to walk in His footsteps, to the glory of His name.

Amen!

Now to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“The cross of Christ made those who abused their authority subject to their former subjects. The cross teaches us, first of all, to resist sin to the point of death and to die willingly for the sake of religion. It also sets an example of obedience for us, and in the same way it punishes the stubbornness of those who once ruled us. Listen to how the Apostle Paul taught us obedience by the cross of Christ: ‘Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking upon Him the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and, being found in fashion as a man, He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.’ So, then, as a skilled master teaches both by example and command, so Christ taught us obedience, even to the point of death, by dying to Himself in obedience.”

– Rufinus

Lectionary for next week: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Psalm 95:1-7a;;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

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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