



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

June 26, 2011 (Second Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Leader:

SHOUT JOYFULLY TO GOD, ALL THE EARTH:

SING THE GLORY OF HIS NAME; MAKE HIS PRAISE GLORIOUS!

Men:

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever.

Women:

With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

We declare that your steadfast love is established forever.

Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

All your works praise you, O LORD, and your faithful servants bless you.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

The LORD is faithful in all his works and merciful in all his deeds.

Leader:

FOR THE LORD IS GOOD AND HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER;

HIS FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS!

– from Psalms 66, 89, 145, 100



Baptism, Cornelis Monsma, 2005



Sing to the Lord

Eternal, Immortal God of all glory,
Fearful in wonders and worthy of praise;
The Alpha, Omega, Lord God Almighty,
Wonderful, Beautiful, Ancient of Days.

Chorus:

And I sing praise, I give You my heart,
I sing praise, I give You my all,
I sing praise – Sing to the Lord.

Redeemer, Messiah, Rock of the ages,
A help in trouble, a tower of strength;
Emmanuel, Jehovah, God of Creation,
Wonderful, Beautiful, King of all kings.

Bridge:

God of compassion and God of all gladness and
Your tender mercies are new every morning, and
God of compassion and God of all gladness and
You dance around me, You dance around me.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

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.

Public domain. Text, Robert Robinson; traditional American melody, John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader:

WE KNOW, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND WE HOLD WITH FIRMEST FAITH,
THAT CHRIST DIED FOR US BUT ONCE:

the Righteous for sinners,
 the Master for slaves,
the Free for captives,
 the Doctor for the sick,
the Happy for the miserable,
 the Rich for the needy,
the Seeker for the lost,
 the Redeemer for the sold,
the Shepherd for the sheep,

AND WHAT IS MOST AWE-INSPIRING OF ALL:

the Creator for the created.

– Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430)

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (verse 3)

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.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to confession

The apostle Paul exhorts us to consider ourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus: “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies. . . . but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and offer every part of yourselves to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin will no longer have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

– from Romans 6:11-14

[Silent confessions]



Contemplation,
Chris Shreve, contemp

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

Setting: Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ, even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned, nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me.

All I need do is accept this gift of God with a believing heart.

– from the *Heidelberg Catechism*, Q. & A. 60

Grace Greater Than Our Sin (refrain)

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Public domain. Words: Julia H. Johnston. Music: Daniel B. Towner.

Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

–Romans 6:22-23

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Meditation:

Gracious and awesome God, you have given us eternal and abundant life in Christ Jesus our Lord. In gratitude and with joyful thanksgiving, we bring our tribute to the King of Heaven. Accept, we pray, your tithes and our offerings as signs of our worship, devotion and praise to you, the God of grace.



Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favor
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness!

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.

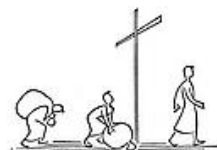
Angels in the height, adore Him;
You behold Him face to face.
Saints triumphant, bow before Him;
Gathered in from every race.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Praise the everlasting King. Glorious in His faithfulness.
Widely yet His mercy flows. Praise with us the God of grace!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, based on Psalm 103. Music: Mark Andrews
Setting: Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler.

THE WORD

Romans 6:12-23



Set free from the power of Sin, Annie
Vollotton,



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by 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)

Fountain of Grace

You have been faithful when I have been faithless,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
Forever giving when I have been selfish,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Still the beginning of all that is holy,
Unsearchable Ancient of Days.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You were the constant when I chose to wander,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
You were forgiveness when I cried for mercy,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You are the author of all that is finished,
I owe You my life and my praise.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Pour out the water of life on this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Twila Paris. ©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by EMI Publishing)



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Benediction: God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses and sins, made us alive together with Christ – by grace we have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
– Ephesians 2:4-7

Now, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

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

A thought about worship... “Congregations that have been willing to take the risk of restoring symbolic language have found an increased aliveness to their worship. Learning to respond to God with hands and feet, eyes and ears, nose and mouth provides a break with an intellectual, head-oriented, passive, and even stuffy approach to worship.” (Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God’s Mighty Deeds of Salvation* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992, 81).

Lectionary readings for next week: Genesis 24:34-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-30

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
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.