



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

August 7, 2011 (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

We have gathered to worship and praise our gracious God.

O give thanks to the Lord, call on His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples.

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

tell of all His wonderful works.

**We will worship the LORD with gladness,
and come before Him with joyful singing.**

Glory in His holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually.

**We will make known His deeds among the peoples,
and proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.**

For He has remembered His covenant forever,

the word which He commanded to a thousand generations.

Remember the wonderful works He has done,

His miracles, and the judgments He has uttered.

For He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

In the presence of the faithful we proclaim His name, for it is good.

His faithfulness continues through all generations!

— from Psalms 105 and 96



Song of Angels; He Oi, 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.

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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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

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; harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams



PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord, from Romans 10:6-15

Leader:

What does the righteousness that comes from faith say?
**“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” – that is,
the word of faith that we proclaim:**

If we confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts
that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved.

*For one believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.*

The scripture says, “No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;

the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on Him.

For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?

And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?

And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him?

And how are they to proclaim Him unless they are sent?

As it is written,

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”



Paul de Tarse, Rembrandt, 1635



Ancient Words

Verse 1

Holy words, long preserved, for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

Chorus

Ancient words, ever true,
Changing me, changing you.
We have come with open hearts;
O let the ancient words impart.

Verse 2

Holy words of our faith, handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice; O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words, long preserved for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.

Verse 3

Martyrs' blood stains each page; they have died for our faith.
Hear their cry down through the years,
O heed these words and hold them dear.
Countless saints, most unknown, labored long, and alone.
Pressing on they won the prize, and gave us holy words of life.

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PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Come and hear, all who fear God, and I will tell of what He has done for my soul. If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer nor His lovingkindness from me.

Psalm 66:16, 18-20

[Silent confessions]

READING: Matthew 14:22-33

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His faithful, to those who turn to Him in their hearts.

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him and will make a path for his steps.

In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.
Thanks be to God!

— from Psalm 85:8-13



TIME OF OFFERING

Spoken prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

And now we offer ourselves, all we are and all we have, as an expression of our worship and a reflection of Your love. Amen.

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

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THE WORD

Lectionary:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalms 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

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

Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; holy, holy is He.
Sing a new song to Him who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

Chorus

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev'rything, and I will adore You.

Verse 2

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power
Be to You, the only wise King.

Verse 3

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,
At the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power,
Breath and living water,
Such a marv'lous mystery.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (reprise)

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

And now, as we go forth, in faith and joy, to love and serve the Lord,
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... – “Here [is the third of] five practical suggestions that will help Communion become a more powerful medium for communicating God’s saving work and our appropriation of it. 3. *Use a single loaf and cup. Communion is also a symbol of the church, which is Christ’s body.* Since there is only one body united to Christ, symbols such as a single loaf of bread and a simple cup make a more accurate statement about the relationships in Christ’s body than the individual wafers or pieces of bread and the many little single cups. We are one, one with him and one with each other. Why not communicate this symbolically as well as verbally? (Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God’s Mighty Deeds of Salvation* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992, 97).

Lectionary for next week: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8;
Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

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.