

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

July 29, 2012 (Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

The LORD is good to all; and His tender mercies are over all His works.

All Your works shall praise You, O LORD; and Your faithful people shall bless You.

They tell of the glory of Your kingdom, and speak of Your might, so that all people may know of Your mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and gracious in all He does.

The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

The LORD upholds all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

- Psalm 145.9-18



The Good Shepherd, Mosaic, Ravenna Italy, Sixth Century



You Are Beautiful

Source of life to wood and stream, Sovereign Lord and gentle King, More than we could ever dream: You are beautiful. Father to the fatherless, Healer of our brokenness, How You fill our emptiness: You are beautiful.

Chorus

Jesus, You are beautiful; There is none to compare with You. Jesus, You are beautiful; And you show Your love to me, And it gives me grace to see: You are everything my heart desires. You are beautiful.

Son of God upon a cross,
Tasting death for all of us,
Reaching out when we were lost:
You are beautiful.
Risen Lamb upon the throne,
Roaring Lion coming soon,
Every eye will see it's true:
You are beautiful.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



You Are Beautiful

Jesus, You are beautiful; there is none to compare with You.

Jesus, You are beautiful;

And you show Your love to me, and it gives me grace to see:

You are everything my heart desires.

You are beautiful; You are beautiful; You are beautiful.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, *From whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name:*

From whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name:

I pray that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,

to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

And to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, *That you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- Ephesians 3:14-21

Of the Father's Love Begotten (verse 3)

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee, Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, And unwearied praises be: Honor, glory, and dominion And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore.

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PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The LORD is just in all His ways, and kind in all His doings. He is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

- Psalm 145:17-18

To You, O LORD, I call;

Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You for mercy, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;

Shepherd them also, and carry them forever.

- Psalm 28:1-2, 9

[Silence]

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against others, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, When I call answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, Come and listen to me.

©1982 Les Presses de Taizé (France); Based on Psalm 102:1,2 Music from the Taizé community

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord:

As a shepherd cares for his flock when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep. I will deliver them from all the places they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.



I Myself will feed My sheep and lead them to rest, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will seek the lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

- from Ezekiel 34:12-16

TIME OF OFFERING

Spoken prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

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

All Around Me

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the far side of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead and guide; You're all around me.

Chorus:

And I'm surrounded everywhere I go; Your presence covers me. And Your constant love makes me know: You're all around me.

Where can I go that I won't find you there? If I try to hide you know just where I'd be. You sustain me with Your faithfulness, You're all around me.

Chorus

Bridge: (4 times)

All around, all around, all around You're...
All around, all around, all around You're...
All around, all around me.

Chorus

Bridge: (3 times)

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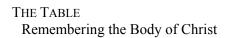


THE WORD

2 Samuel 11:1-15

2 Samuel 24:17

Mark 6:1-13





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, 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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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.

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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



All Around Me (reprise)

And I'm surrounded everywhere I go; Your presence covers me. And Your constant love makes me know: You're all around me.

Bridge:

All around, all around, all around You're...
All around, all around, all around You're...
All around, all around me.

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Benediction:

Beloved, we go in joy and with thankful hearts,

because God Himself, the God of all grace and Creator of all things, both seen and unseen, tabernacles in us and is pleased to make His dwelling among us.

Now may the grace, power, and joy of Christ dwell always in us, 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 -

"In the Old Testament there is a veiling of the New, and in the New Testament there is a revealing of the Old. According to that veiling, fleshly people . . . once were and continue to be dominated by fear of punishment. But according to the revealing, spiritual people . . . have been freed by the gift of love. They knocked in holiness and even hidden things opened up to them. And now they seek without pride, fearing lest even revealed things be closed up to them. There is nothing more contrary to love than envy, and envy comes from pride. Consequently, the Lord Jesus Christ, the God □Man, both discloses Divine love towards us and serves as an example of human humility for us. . . . Therefore, make this love your goal. Refer all that you say to it. Whatever you speak, speak it in such a way that those you converse with may believe when they hear you, upon believing they might hope, and upon hoping they might love." — Augustine

Lectionary for next week: 2 Samuel 1126-12:13a; Psalm 51; Exodus 16:2-4,9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

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.