

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

February 26, 2023 (First Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the eternal God.

He is the source of love and life, who creates and sustains us.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

How blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD!

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,

who abide in the shadow of the Almighty – Say to the LORD:

My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!

His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.

For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. When you call on Him, He will answer.

He will be with you in trouble; He will rescue you and honor you, and you will see His salvation.

“Because you have loved Me,” declares the LORD, “I will deliver you.

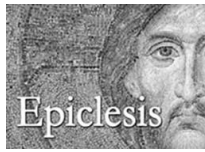
I will set you securely on high, because you have known My name.”

Let the righteous be glad in the LORD, and take refuge in Him!

Let all the upright in heart exult and offer praise!

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 91 and 64



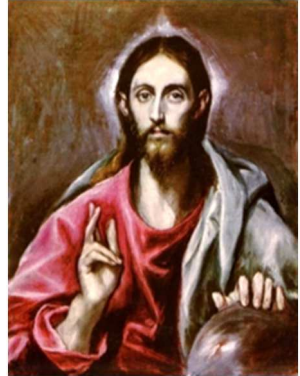


Only King Forever

Our God and firm foundation,
Our Rock, the only solid ground;
The nations rise and fall.
Kingdoms, once strong, now shaken;
We trust forever in Your name:
The name of Jesus.
We trust the name of Jesus.

Chorus

You are the only King forever;
Almighty God, we lift You higher.
You are the only King forever;
Forevermore, You are victorious.



Unmatched in all Your wisdom,
In love and justice You will reign;
And every knee will bow.
We bring our expectations;
Our hope is anchored in Your name:
The name of Jesus.
Oh, we trust the name of Jesus.

Chorus

Bridge

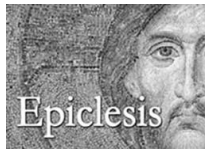
We lift our banner high;
We lift the name of Jesus;
From age to age You reign;
Your kingdom has no end.

Chorus

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit



Doxology (Of the Father's Love Begotten)

Christ, to Thee with God the Fa*ther,
And, O Holy Ghost*, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiv*ing,
And unwearied prais*es be:
Honor, glory, and domin*ion
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore*. A*men.

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century; transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker. Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11th century. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2015.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

Just as sin entered the world through one man, Adam,
and death came through sin, so death came to all,
because all have sinned.

But the gift of God is not like the trespass.

**For if the many died by the trespass of the one man,
how much more did God's grace and the free gift
that came by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ,
overflow to the many!**

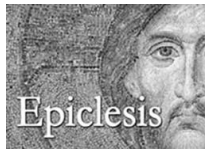
Nor can the gift of God be compared
with the result of the one man's sin:

**The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation,
but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.**

For if death reigned through the trespass of the one man,
how much more will those
who receive God's abundant provision of grace
and the gift of righteousness
reign in life through the one Man, Jesus Christ!

**For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made
sinners, so also through the obedience of the one Man the many
will be made righteous.**

– from Romans 5:12-19



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Blessed are those

whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are those

*whose sin the LORD does not count against them,
and in whose spirits is no deceit.*

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

**Then I acknowledged my sin to You
and did not cover up my iniquity.**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to You.

– Psalm 32:1-6a

[Silent confessions]

Most merciful God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before You our own sinfulness.

We have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted Your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in Your ways and delight in doing Your will, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Agnus Dei

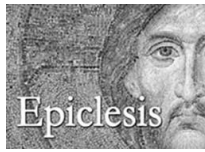
O Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.



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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord; His promises are trustworthy and true:

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

**You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with songs of deliverance.**

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but those who trust in the LORD,
lovingkindness will surround them.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;
and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

– from Psalm 32:7-11

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green.
The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

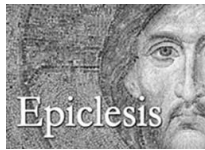
His beauty doth all things excel; by faith I know but ne'er can tell.
His beauty doth all things excel; by faith I know but ne'er can tell:
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words: from *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs*, compiled by Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784. First published in London by "R. H." in 1761. Tune: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987), 1967. Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2014



THE WORD

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

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.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again!

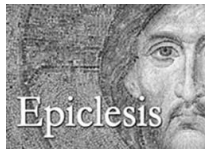
The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

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 us 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



Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.



In our longing, in our darkness, now the Light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hellbound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory; grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him. Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

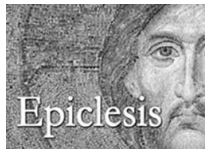
Benediction

May the Lord bless us and keep us.
May the Lord smile on us, shine His light upon us.
May the Lord lift us, turn His face towards us,
Give us His peace, give us His peace.

Blessed we came to this place today,
And blessed now, we will go.
In the name of the Father, the Spirit, and the Son.

Go now in peace; go now in peace.

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Benediction:

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent—walking in Christ’s own footsteps, taking on His likeness and His virtues, that you may learn more fully to live as subjects of His kingdom in an upside-down world. **Amen.**

And just as Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem and the work He had to do there, so also may we set our faces in this Lenten season, as we, His covenant people, follow Him on the way to the cross.

We remember, and we go with grateful hearts into the world to love and serve the Lord, our true blessing.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Human desires are tempted only by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. The devil tempted the Lord by these three. He was tempted by the lust of the flesh when, while hungry from fasting, He was told, ‘If thou be the Son of God, speak to these stones that they become bread.’ Listen to His response: ‘Not by bread alone doth man live, but by every word of God.’ He was also tempted by the lust of the eyes to perform a miracle, when He was told, ‘Cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.’ . . . Listen to His answer and, when you face similar temptations, say the same thing: ‘Get thee behind me, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.’ . . . How else was the Lord tempted? By the ‘pride of life.’ When the devil carried Him up to a high place and said to Him, ‘All these will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.’ . . . What answer did the Lord teach us to give by His answer to the devil? ‘It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.’ Holding these things fast, you won’t have the strong desires of the world. . . . [and] the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life won’t change you. . . . For if you love the world, you cannot love God.” – Augustine

Image credits – p. 2: El Greco, *Pantocrator Christ*, c. 1600 (Pantocrator means “Ruler of All”); p. 4: Ivan Nikolaevich Kramskoi, *Study for Christ in the Wilderness*, 1872; p. 6: Joseph Mallord William Turner, *The Temptation of Christ on the Mountain*, c. 1834 (detail); Daniel Bonnell, *Communion Cup*, contemp.

Lectionary for next week: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;
John 3:1-17

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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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