

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

August 27, 2023 (Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

If the Lord Had Not Been On Our Side

If the Lord had not been on our side.
All our enemies would have swallowed us alive.
If the Lord had not been on our side.
All the raging waters and the mighty flood
Would have swept over us..
If the Lord, if the Lord, if the Lord had not been on our side.

CCLI Song #1337568 ©1996 Universal Music – Brentwood Bensen Songs. Rob Mathes.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
**Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea,
though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.**

**The LORD of hosts is with us,
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come and behold the works of the Lord,
what awesome things he has done on earth.

**If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
then the waters would have engulfed us,
the raging waters would have swept over our soul.**

This is what the LORD, our God, says:

“Be still, and know that I am God;

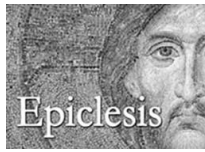
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

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

Blessed be the LORD!

– from Psalms 46 and 124





Behold the Lord

Great and marvelous are Your works,
Oh Lord Almighty.
True and righteous are all Your ways,
King of the ages.
Who will not fear You, oh Lord,
And glorify Your Name?

Chorus

Behold the Lord; God is my salvation;
In Him I trust, and will not be afraid.
And I will give thanks,
And sing among the nations forever;
Behold the Lord, behold the Lord,
Behold the Lord.

So rejoice and be glad in this: our God is with us:
Messiah, Emmanuel, Lion of Judah!
Lift up your voice and declare the glory of our King.

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

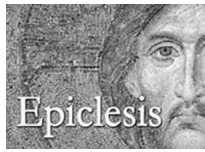
Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness:
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.



Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm. Hymn tune: William M. Runyan.
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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us express our unity with the church of all ages

by professing our faith in these words of the Heidelberg Catechism:

I am called Christian

**because by faith I am a member of Christ,
and so I share in His anointing.**

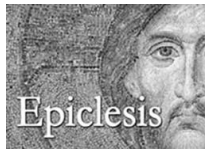
I am anointed

**to confess His name,
to present myself to Him a living sacrifice of thankfulness,
to strive with a good conscience
against sin and the devil in this life,
and afterward to reign with Christ
over all creation, for all eternity.**

We call him “our Lord” because —

**not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood —
He has delivered us
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,
and has redeemed us, body and soul,
to be His very own.**

— from the Heidelberg Catechism, 32 - 34



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your true and proper, reasonable and spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

– Romans 12:1-2

Most holy and merciful Father,

**We confess to You, and before one another,
that we have sinned, in thought, word and deed.**

Too often we have offended Your holiness:

we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.

we have followed the devices of our own hearts,

and have spurned the promptings of Your Spirit.

We have been slow to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

[Silence]

Have mercy on us, Lord.

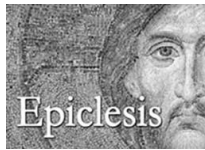
Accept our repentance, and accomplish in us the work of Your salvation, that we may show forth Your glory in the world; through Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Father Hear Our Prayer

Father, hear our prayer
That our lives may be
Consecrated only unto You.
Cleanse us with Your fire,
Fill us with Your pow'r,
That the world may glorify Your name.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and forgiveness:

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek
the LORD. Look to the Rock from which you were hewn.
For the LORD will comfort His people; joy and gladness
will be found in them, thanksgiving and the voice of song.
And His justice will be a light to the peoples:
His salvation will be forever,
and His deliverance will never be ended.

– from Isaiah 51:1-6

The LORD will fulfill His purpose for us;

Your lovingkindness, O Lord, endures forever.

– Psalm 138:8

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

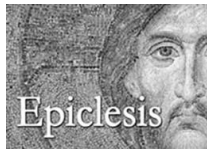
Great Are You, Lord

You give life; You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope; You restore
Every heart that is broken.
And great are You, Lord.

It's Your breath in our lungs;
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs;
So we pour out our praise to You only.

And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
“Great are You, Lord!”

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Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan, David Leonard.



THE WORD

Psalm 124

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.

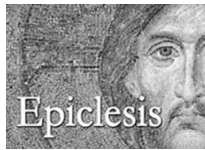
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen.



The Love of God

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;



It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from all sin.

Chorus:

O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall for evermore endure the saints' and angels' song.

When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When those who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Grace will resound the whole earth round—
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And everyone a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

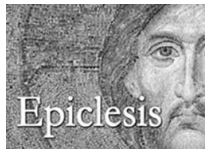
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Words and tune by F. M. Lehman, 1917.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Behold the Lord (chorus)

Behold the Lord; God is my salvation;
In Him I trust, and will not be afraid.
And I will give thanks, and sing among the nations forever;
Behold the Lord, behold the Lord, behold the Lord. . . .



Benediction:

Now, beloved, we go forth into the world
to love and serve the Lord with grateful hearts,
continually proclaiming and reflecting
His faithfulness and steadfast love.

Amen.

Now to Him who reigns far above all rule and authority
and power and dominion, and every name that is named,
not only in this age, but also in the age to come,
King of kings and Lord of lords,
be glory and honor, dominion and praise,
forever and ever.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Confess Christ, we will become like Peter. We are considered blessed as he was. Flesh and blood haven't revealed to us that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of the living God, but the Father in heaven has, so that we can be citizens of heaven. This revelation carries to heaven those who unveil their hearts and receive ‘the spirit of the wisdom and revelation’ of God. And if we say like Peter, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,’ not because flesh and blood revealed it to us, but because our heavenly Father's light has shone in our hearts, we become a rock, or a Peter. . . . Christ is the spiritual Rock from whom His people drank and every disciple of Christ is a rock. Every word of the church and its government is built upon every such rock. For the church is built by God through each of the perfect ones who provide blessing through their words, deeds, and thoughts.”
– Origen

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Lectionary for next week: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

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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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