

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
March 9, 2025 (First Sunday of Lent)

GATHERING

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.*

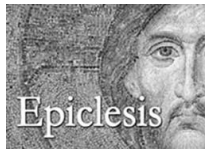
When you call on Him,
He will answer.

*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.”

– from Psalm 91:1-4, 11-16





A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

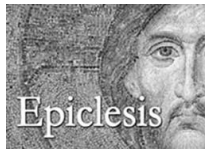
A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe –
His craft and pow'r are great,
And armed with cruèl hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus it is He –
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him –
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also –
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.

Words and hymn tune: Martin Luther, 1529. Transl. from German to English
by Frederic H. Hedge, 1853. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2015



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

The word of the Lord,

from the epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans:

What does the righteousness that comes from faith say?

**“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” –
that is, the word of faith that we proclaim:**

**Because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,
you will be saved.**

**For with the heart one believes, leading to righteousness,
and with the mouth one confesses, leading to salvation.**

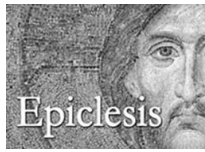
For the Scripture says,

“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,
bestowing His riches on all who call on Him.**

**For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.”**

– Romans 10:8-13



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy,

“I dwell in the high and holy place, and with the contrite and lowly of
spirit, in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the
heart of the contrite.”

– Isaiah 57:15

*“These are the ones I look on with favor,” says the LORD,
“those who are humble and contrite in spirit,
and who tremble at My word.”*

– Isaiah 66:2

[Silence]

Eternal, loving, and most merciful God – whose Son, Jesus Christ our
Savior, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin:

**We confess before You our own sinfulness. Too often, we have
hungered after that which does not satisfy. Too often, we have
compromised with evil. Too often, we have doubted Your power
to protect us.**

[Silence]

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.**

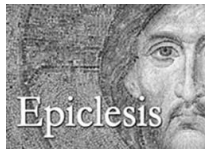
The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison,
Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.



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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's faithful promise of His love and deliverance:

Those who love Me, I will deliver;

I will protect those who know My name.

When they call to Me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

With long life I will satisfy them, and show them My salvation.

– Psalm 91:14-16

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Desert Song

This is my prayer in the desert,
When all that's within me feels dry.
This is my prayer in my hunger and need.
My God is the God who provides.

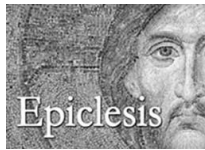
This is my prayer in the fire,
In weakness or trial or pain.
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold.
So refine me, Lord, through the flame.

Chorus

I will bring praise. I will bring praise.
No weapon formed against me shall remain.
I will rejoice. I will declare:
God is my victory, and He is here.

This is my prayer in the battle,
When triumph is still on its way.
I am a conqueror, and coheir with Christ.
So firm on His promise I'll stand.

Chorus



This is my prayer in the harvest,
When favour and providence flow.
I know I'm filled to be emptied again.
The seed I've received I will sow.

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THE WORD

Luke 4:1-13



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

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

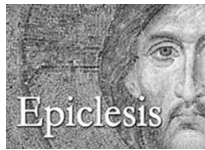
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

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

Forever. Amen.



O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Greatest treasure of my longing soul,
My God, like You there is no other.
True delight is found in You alone.
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom,
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach;
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom,
My highest good, and my unending need.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Strong defender of my weary heart,
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver,
And my shield against his hateful darts.
My song when enemies surround me,
My hope when tides of sorrow rise,
My joy when trials are abounding,
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Gracious Savior of my ruined life,
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders,
In my place, You suffered, bled, and died.
You rose, the grave and death are conquered.
You broke my bonds of sin and shame.
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
May all my days bring glory to Your Name.

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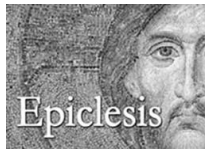
SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Jesus Set His Face To The Cross

Jesus set His face to the cross. (repeat)
And I must follow there with Him;
Help me, God, to journey 'til the end.
Jesus set His face to the cross.

Chris Alford and Ellen Koehler. ©2019.



Benediction:

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms as Christ's faithful disciples, do so remembering that God is your Refuge and Fortress, who in His eternal faithfulness saves, sustains, enables, and encourages you.

Amen.

Now may the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance, as you walk in Christ's own footsteps, taking on His likeness, in this journey of Lent.

We remember, and we go with grateful hearts into the world to love and serve the Lord. 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. Because you won't have the strong desires of the world, 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

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Lectionary for next week: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 13:31-35

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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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