

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy

April 9, 2023 (Resurrection of the Lord)

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

His steadfast love endures forever.

The LORD is my strength and my song;

He has become my salvation!

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous,
proclaiming what the LORD has done:

The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

the right hand of the LORD is exalted!

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

His steadfast love endures forever.

Open the gates of righteousness;

we shall enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

His steadfast love endures forever!

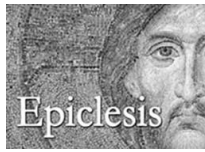
The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes!

This is the day the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

— from Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24





Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King. Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save. Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done. Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise. Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: EASTER HYMN, from *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

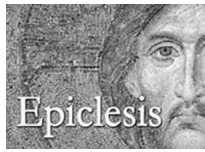
Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

Easter Doxology *(Jesus Christ Is Risen Today)*

Hymns of praise, then, let us sing:
Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King:
Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave:
Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save:
Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century;
transl. in *Lyra Davidica*, 1708,
Hymn tune: Robert Williams
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PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

Christ died for all,

in order that those who are alive may live no longer for themselves
but for Him who died for them and rose again.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If then any are in Christ, they are new creations.

The former things have passed away; behold, they are made new!

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

For God, who commanded light to shine out of darkness,
has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Walk, then, as children of light – for the fruit of the light
is in all goodness and righteousness and truth –
trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

You were buried with Christ in baptism,

in which you also were raised with Him through faith

in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

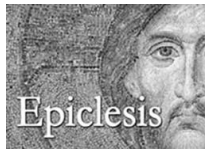
“Death is swallowed up in victory!

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

Amen.

– from Romans 14:8; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57;
2 Corinthians 4:6; 5:15-17;
Ephesians 5:8-10; Colossians 2:12



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by His resurrection You destroyed the power of sin and death. Yet we confess that we do not always live as Your redeemed covenant people.

Too often we have not done Your will. [silence]

We have rebelled against Your love. [silence]

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. [silence]

We have not trusted in Your promises. [silence]

Forgive us, we pray.

Grant that we, who celebrate with joy Christ's raising from the dead, may so die daily to sin that we may evermore live with Him in the joy of His resurrection, walking in Your ways 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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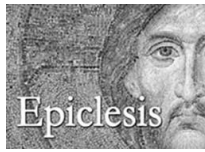
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of God's salvation and His promise of pardon:

If for this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, by a Man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Who then is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.



**But Christ suffered and died for us;
He was raised from the dead for us;
He reigns in power for us and He intercedes for us.**

In Christ, we are forgiven! In Him we live!

Thanks be to God!

– from 1 Corinthians 15:19-22; Romans 8:34

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Turn Your Eyes

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embrace.
There the Son of God gave His life for us,
And our measureless debt was erased,

Chorus:

Jesus, to You we lift our eyes. Jesus, our glory and our prize.
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true;
Oh, Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.

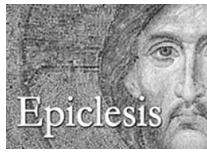
Turn your eyes to the morning and see Christ the Lion awake.
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone,
For we carry His life in our veins.

Chorus

Turn your eyes to the heavens; our King will return for His own.
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,
“All glory to Jesus alone!”

Chorus

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THE WORD

Romans 5

1 Corinthians 15

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 (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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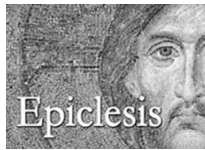
In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,

He is my light, my strength, my song;

This Cornerstone, this solid ground,

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

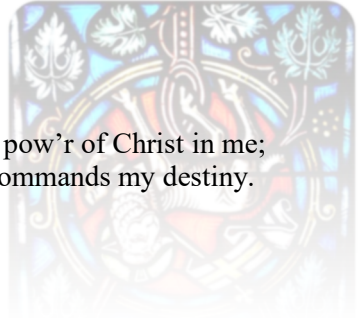


What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on the cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world, by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

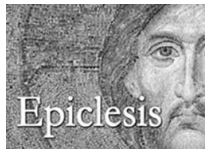


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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (verse 4)

Soar we now where Christ has led. Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head. Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise. Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!



Benediction:

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord.

Because He lives, and has triumphed over death, you also live.

Alleluia! Amen.

Since we have been raised with Christ, let us go forth from this place as His witnesses in the joy and power of His resurrection. And may His resurrection bring you all joy and perseverance so that, as you remember and walk out your baptisms, you may also abound in hope.

Alleluia! Amen.

Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless you now and forever, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the risen Christ.

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the ancient Fathers –

“What sort of garland did Christ Jesus . . . submit to on behalf of humanity? One made of thorns and thistles – a symbol of our sins, produced by the soil of the flesh. However, the power of the cross removed these thorns, blunting death's every sting in the Lord's enduring head. . . . This was so that now you might be crowned with laurel, myrtle, olive, and any famous branch . . . garlands that will rival even the crown Christ obtained afterwards. For after the gall, He tasted the honeycomb. He was not greeted in heaven as the King of Glory until He had been condemned to the cross as King of the Jews. The Father first made Him a little lower than the angels for a time and then crowned Him with glory and honor. If you owe your own head to Him for these things, repay it if you can; He presented His for yours. Otherwise, don't be crowned with flowers at all; if you can't be crowned with thorns, you may never be crowned with flowers.”

– Tertullian

Image credits – p. 1: Graham Braddock, *He Is Risen*, 2014; p. 6: Lou Ann Bagnall, 2013.

Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:1-14a, 22-32; Psalm 16;
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

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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