

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 10, 2019 (First Sunday of Lent)

GATHERING

Leader: 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.

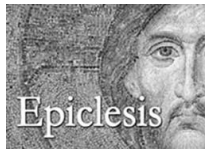
He will be with you in trouble;

He will rescue you and honor you and you will see His salvation.

Leader: “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

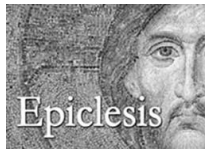
A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe –
His craft and pow'r are great,
And armed with cruèl hate,
On earth is not his equal.

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 and is justified,
and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**

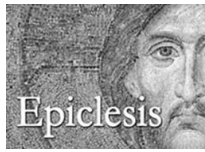
For the Scripture says,

“Everyone who believes in Him will not 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

*“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

[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. We have hungered after
that which does not satisfy. We have compromised with evil. We
have doubted Your power to protect us.**

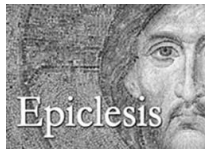
[Silence]

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

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, and be encouraged by these words of assurance from the *Heidelberg Catechism*:

**My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own,
but belong – body and soul, in life and in death –
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall
from my head without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of
eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for Him.**

– from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1

TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.

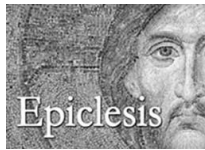
When It's All Been Said and Done

When it's all been said and done,
There is just one thing that matters:
Did I do my best to live for truth?
Did I live my life for You?

When it's all been said and done,
All my treasures will mean nothing;
Only what I've done for love's reward
Will stand the test of time.

Lord, Your mercy is so great, that you look beyond our weakness;
And find purest gold in miry clay, making sinners into saints.

I will always sing Your praise, here on earth and ever after;
For You've shown me Heaven's my true home,
When it's all been said and done,
You're my life when life is gone.



When it's all been said and done,
There is just one thing that matters:
Did I do my best to live for truth?
Did I live my life for You?
Lord, I'll live my life for You.

CCLI Song #2788353 ©1999 Integrity's Hosanna!
Jim Cowan.

THE WORD

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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,

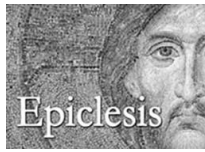
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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.

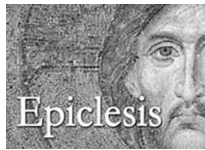
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Gracious Savior of my ruined life,
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders,
In my place, You suffered, bled, and died.
You rose, the grave and death are conquered.
You broke my bonds of sin and shame.

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

Chris Alford, Ellen Koehler,
©2019.

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.

Benediction

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

Be encouraged to observe a holy Lent – walking in Christ's own footsteps, taking on His likeness, and living, as He did, in view of both mortality and eternity.

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. Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“There must not be any space between our heart and lips, . . . The Word must be near us and within us. There must not be any delay between the heart and the lips. We must have a faith of conviction as well as of words. . . . The Apostle Paul explains the prophet's words: ‘That is the word of faith, which we preach; because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved.’ . . . Faith lies in simplicity, righteousness in faith, and true godliness in confession. For God doesn't call us to the blessed life through tiring investigations. He doesn't tempt us with rhetoric. The way to eternity is plain and easy: believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess that He is the Lord. . . . Jesus Christ died so that we could live in Him.”
– Hilary of Poitiers

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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