

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
March 12, 2023 (Third Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Come, let us sing to the LORD;

Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.

**With joy, we come before Him with thanksgiving,
and extol Him with songs of praise.**

For His steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

those He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy
and gathered to Himself, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south!

**Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,
for His wondrous works to the children of men.**

**For He satisfies the longing soul,
and fills the hungry soul with goodness.**

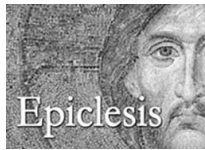
Come, let us bow down in worship,

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker;

O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

— from Psalms 95:1-2, 107:1-9, 34:3





Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
The King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

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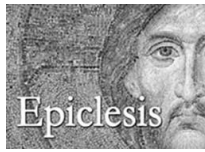
Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Come, Let Us Worship

Come, let us worship and bow down
Before the Lord Most Holy,
Before the King of Glory.
Come, and lay your burdens down
Before the Friend who's faithful,
Before the One who's able.



For He is our God, and we are His people.
He is our God, and we will never be forsaken.

Come, let us lift our voice in praise
Unto the Rock of Ages,
Unto the God who saves us.
Come, and glorify His name,
All the earth together,
All the saints forever.

For He is our God, and we are His people.
He is our God, and we will never be forsaken.

For You are our God, and we are Your people.
You are our God, and we will ever praise You.
You are our God, and we will worship You forever.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Through Him we have obtained access by faith
into this grace in which we stand;
and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

And not only that, but we also rejoice in our tribulations,
knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

And perseverance brings about proven character;

And proven character brings about hope.

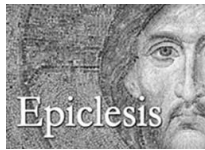
And hope does not disappoint,

*because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

**For while we were still helpless, at the right time
Christ died for the ungodly.**

**God demonstrates His own love for us in that,
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

— from Romans 5:1-8



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The LORD, our Maker, is our God, and we are His people.

Today, as we hear His voice, let us not harden our hearts.

*LORD, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You,
and Your righteousness to the upright of heart.*

– based on Psalm 95:7-8, 36:10

Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart:

Our hearts are restless until they rest in You.

We confess that we have allowed our hearts to be drawn away from our rest in You. We have sought after many things, and too easily neglected Your ways. We have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

[Silence]

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in Your ways, and worship You in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

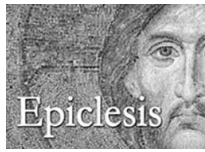
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Since we have been justified by His blood, how much more shall we
be saved from God's wrath through Him!

*For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him
through the death of His Son, how much more, having been
reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!*



Not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Thanks be to God!

— Romans 5:9-11

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise

Fountain of Grace

You have been faithful
When I have been faithless,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
Forever giving
When I have been selfish,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Still the beginning of all that is holy,
Unsearchable Ancient of Days.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

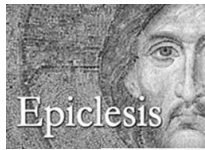
You were the constant when I chose to wander,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
You were forgiveness when I cried for mercy,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You are the author of all that is finished,
I owe You my life and my praise.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Pour out the water of life on this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.



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THE WORD

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42



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!



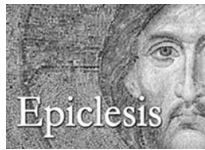
The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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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More Like Jesus

You came to the world You created, trading Your crown for a cross.
You willingly died, Your innocent life paid the cost.



Counting Your status as nothing,
The King of all kings came to serve;
Washing my feet, covering me with Your love.

Chorus:

If more of You means less of me, take everything.
Yes, all of You, is all I need; take everything.

You are my life and my treasure, the One that I can't live without.
Here at Your feet, my desires and dreams I lay down. (repeat)

Bridge:

O, Lord, change me like only You can.
Here with my heart in Your hands,
Father, I pray: Make me more like Jesus.
This world is dying to know who You are.
You've shown us the way to Your heart.
So, Father, I pray: Make me more like Jesus.

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songs. Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood, Kristian Stanfill, Brett Younker.

There Is A Redeemer

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus

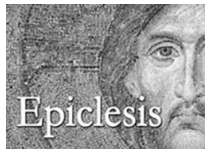
Thank You, O my Father for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.

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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

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, in humility and compassion, 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 –

“We read and believe many things in light of the Incarnation. But even in our human feelings, we can observe God’s greatness. For example, Jesus is wearied by His journey so that He can refresh the weary. He desires a drink when He is about to give spiritual water to the thirsty. He was hungry when He was about to supply the food of salvation to the hungry. He dies to live again. He is buried to rise again. He hangs on the dreadful cross to strengthen those in dread. He veils the heaven with thick darkness so that He can give light. He makes the earth shake so that He may make it strong. He rouses the sea so that He can calm it. He opens the tombs of the dead so that He can show that they are the homes of the living. He is born of a virgin so that people can believe He is born of God. He pretends not to know so that He can make the ignorant know. As a Jew He is said to worship so that the Son may be worshiped as the true God.” – Ambrose

Image credits – p. 1: John Singer Sargent, Brook Among Rocks, c. 1910; p. 6: Daniel Bonnell, Communion Cup.

Lectionary for next week: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

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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