

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
March 22, 2020 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, You are very great.

**You are clothed with honor and majesty,
You wrap Yourself with light as with a cloak,
and spread out the heavens like a curtain.**

May our meditation be pleasing to Him;
for we rejoice in the LORD.

We declare together:

**The LORD is my strength and my song;
and He has become my salvation.**

Know that the LORD, He is God!

It is He who made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

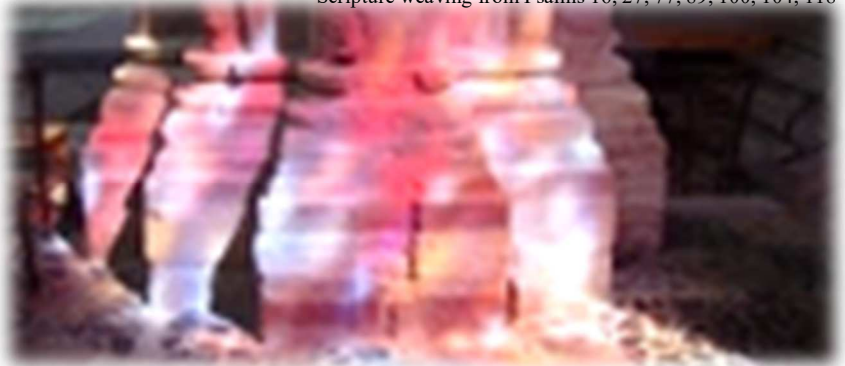
**The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the defense of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?**

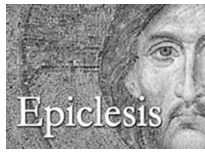
The LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.

Because the LORD is always before us; we shall not be moved.

**Therefore our hearts are glad,
Our souls rejoice, and we rest secure.
He has made known the path of life;
In His presence is fullness of joy, forevermore!**

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 16, 27, 77, 89, 100, 104, 118





He's Always Been Faithful

Morning by morning I wake up to find
The power and comfort of God's hand in mine.
Season by season I watch Him amazed,
In awe of the mystery of His perfect ways.
All I have need of His hand will provide;
He's always been faithful to me.

I can't remember a trial or a pain
He did not recycle to bring me gain.
I can't remember one single regret
In serving God only and trusting His hand.
All I have need of His hand will provide;
He's always been faithful to me.

This is my anthem, this is my song,
The theme of the story I've heard for so long:
God has been faithful, He will be again;
His loving compassion, it knows no end.
All I have need of His hand will provide.
He's always been faithful, He's always been faithful,
He's always been faithful to me.

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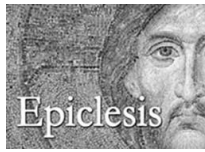
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Open My Eyes That I May See

Open my eyes that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2011. Text and music: Clara H. Scott, 1895.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Christ Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By His wounds you have been healed.

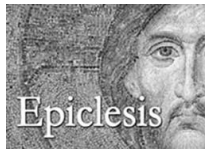
For you were like sheep going astray, but now
you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

– 1 Peter 2:24-25

**The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and lovingkindness
will follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will dwell
in the house of the LORD
Forever.**

– Psalm 23





PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to Your servants who
walk before You with all their heart. – 1 Kings 8:23

Most holy and merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our
understanding, and You have set us on paths of righteousness for
Your name's sake. Yet too often we have strayed from Your way.

**Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me;
for in You my soul takes refuge.** – Psalm 57:1

[Silence]

We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and
deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.

**Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me;
for in You my soul takes refuge.** – Psalm 57:1

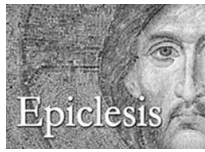
[Silence]

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in Your will,
and walk in Your ways, 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

The word of the Lord, the good news of His salvation:
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
on them light has shined.

– Isaiah 9:2

God, who said, “Let light 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 Jesus Christ.

– 2 Corinthians 4:6

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and expressions of devotion and thanksgiving. . .

Testimonies and sharing . . .

THE WORD

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

The Lord be with you!

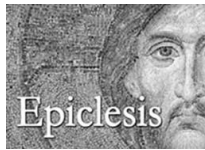
And also with you!

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**

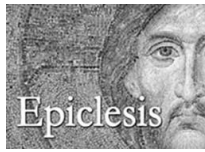


We Behold You (Fraction Anthem)

With all of the saints and angels,
We gather before You.
Our hearts filled with thankfulness,
We lift up Your holy Name.
With all who have gone before us,
We feast at Your table.
We eat of Your body and
Drink of Your holy blood.

And we behold You, and we behold You
Lamb of God, slain for our sins.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, do so remembering this: Jesus is the Light of the world; in Him there is no darkness at all. It is He who faithfully guides, protects, comforts and sustains us. His steadfast love restores our souls. **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 from death to life.

We remember, and we go with grateful hearts into the world to love and serve the Lord. Amen. Thanks be to God!

Postlude and Meditation

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.

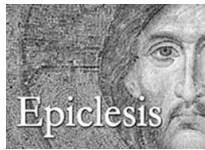
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness;
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

CCLI Song #18723

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Text: Thomas O. Chisholm | Music: William M. Runyan

Lectionary for next week: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45



A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“We, whose spiritual eyes have been opened by the Word, Jesus Christ, and who see the difference between light and darkness, prefer to take our stand ‘in the light.’ We won’t have anything at all to do with darkness. In addition, the true Light, endowed with life, knows who to reveal His full splendor to, and to whom His light. For He doesn’t just display His brilliance due to the weakness in the recipient’s eyes. And whose eyes are affected and injured if we must speak of them at all? Those who are ignorant of God and whose passions prevent them from seeing the truth. Christians, however, aren’t blinded by the words of those who opposed worshipping God. But let those who know they are blinded by following crowds who are in error and groups that keep festivals to demons, draw near to the Word, Jesus Christ. He can give the gift of sight. Like the poor and blind whom . . . Jesus healed because they said to Him, ‘Son of David, have mercy upon me,’ those who draw near to Him will also receive mercy and recover their eyesight, created fresh and beautiful by the Word of God.”

– Origen



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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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