

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
May 10, 2020 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

*Let us come before Him with thanksgiving
and extol Him with music and song.*

**The LORD is my rock and my salvation,
my shield and fortress.**

**I will call upon the LORD,
who alone is worthy to be praised.**

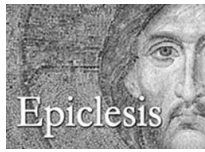
For who is God, but the LORD?

And who is a rock, except our God?

**The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation!**

– from Psalms 18 and 95:1-2





All To Us

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation,
You are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You, Jesus.
We believe; You're all to us.
(repeat)

Chorus:

Let the glory of Your name
Be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God
Be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ
Be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You're all to us.

Verse 2

Only Son of God, sent from heaven;
Hope and mercy at the cross.
You are everything, You're the promise;
Jesus, You are all to us.

Chorus

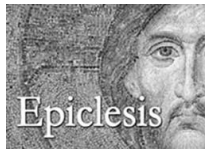
Bridge

You're all to us; You're all to us;
You're all to us, You are.

Verse 3

When this passing world is over,
We will see You face to face.
And forever we will worship;
Jesus, You are all to us.
Jesus, You are all to us.

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Coming to Him as to a living stone,
rejected by men,
but chosen and precious in the sight of God –

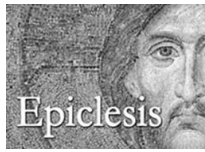
*We also, as living stones,
are being built up as a spiritual house,
a holy priesthood,
to offer up spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

For in Scripture it says,

**“Behold, I am laying in Zion a chief cornerstone,
chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”**

To us then who believe, this stone is precious.

– from 1 Peter 2:4-7a



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

In You, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in Your righteousness.

*Incline Your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;
be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.*

**You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for Your name's sake lead me and guide me.**

Take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for You are my refuge.

*Into Your hand I commit my spirit;
You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.*

**You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for Your name's sake lead me and guide me.**

– Psalm 31:1-5

[Silence]

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
All my hope comes from God.

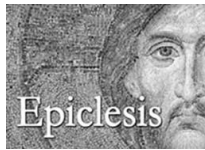
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
God, the well-spring of life.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of God, this is good news indeed of forgiveness and pardon:

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own possession,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him
who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.



Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received
mercy.

– from 1 Peter 2:9-10

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

I See the Lord

I see the Lord, seated on the throne, exalted;
And the train of His robe fills the temple with glory.
And the whole earth is filled, and the whole earth is filled,
And the whole earth is filled with His glory.

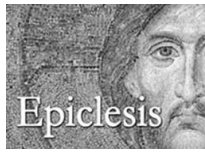
Holy, holy, holy, holy; holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy, holy; holy is the Lord.

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THE WORD

Acts 7:55-60
John 14:1-14





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.



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

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.

Christ, Our Hope In Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

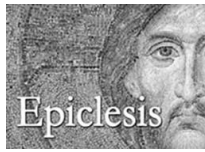
That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.



Chorus

O, sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal.
O, sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Chorus

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord;
Then sin and death will be destroyed.
And we will feast in endless joy.
When Christ is ours forevermore.

Chorus

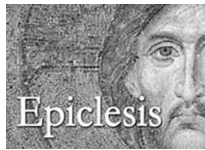
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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Blessed Assurance

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.



This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Benediction:

Beloved, the glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of Jesus Christ, overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him. **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Now, as He appeared to Stephen in His glory – the righteous Judge of all and the source of true hope and security – so may our encounter with the living Christ compel us to go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, giving witness to what we have seen and believed.

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the ancient Fathers –

“Whatever two people have agreed on and asked for on earth will be done for them. For Christ says, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.’ Imagine when an entire congregation is gathered in the name of the Lord. . . So then, make yourselves worthy so that Christ will be in your midst. For where peace is, there Christ is because Christ is Peace. And where righteousness is, Christ is there because Christ is Righteousness. Let Him be in the midst of you, so that you can see Him. Otherwise it will be said to you, ‘There standeth One in the midst of you, whom ye see not.’ The Jews didn’t see Him whom they didn’t believe in. We see Him by our devotion and notice Him by faith. Therefore, let Him stand in your midst. Then the heavens that declare God’s glory will be opened to you and you will be able to do His will and work His works. As the heavens opened to Stephen, they will open to those who see Jesus. For Stephen said, ‘Behold I see the heavens opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.’ Jesus was standing as his advocate. He was standing as though He was anxious to help His athlete Stephen in his battle. He was standing as though He was ready to crown His martyr.”

– Ambrose

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Lectionary for next week: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3: 13-22;
John 14:15-21

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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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