

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 24, 2020 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Ascension of the Lord

GATHERING

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty
and girded with strength.

His throne is established from of old;

He is from everlasting.

O clap your hands, all peoples;

Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the LORD Most High is awesome,
a great King over all the earth.**

He sits on His holy throne.

God has gone up with a shout,

the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God; sing His praises!

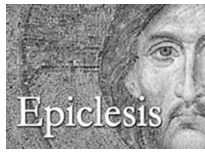
We sing praises to our King! We will shout His praises!

For majestic on high is the LORD!

— from Psalms 47 and 93

The Ascension of Jesus, Miki De Goodaboom, Contemp.





Psalm 24 (The King of Glory)

The King of glory reigns over all the world.
His mighty hand sustains the heavens and the earth.
Who may come to Him, and seek His holy face?

He calls the pure in heart; all whose hands are clean.
And those who love His name above all other things.
Humbly I will bow, and Jesus' name confess.

He reigns, He reigns; Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.

Swing wide, you ancient gates, let the King come in.
His glory never fades; our hearts delight in Him.
Ev'ry knee will bow. Ev'ry tongue confess:

He reigns, He reigns; Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty.
He bore a cross of shame. Sing Hosanna!
Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty.
He rose up from the grave. Sing Hosanna!

He reigns, He reigns; Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.

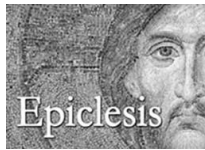
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing;
New* songs throughout the world shall ring.
Christ*, by a road be*fore untrod*
Ascen* deth* to the throne of God.



O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All* praise to Thee let earth accord.
Who* art, while end*less* ages run*,
With Father and* with* Spirit One.

O grant us thitherward to tend,
And* with unwearied hearts ascend,
Un*to Thy king*dom's* throne, where Thou*,
As is our faith*, art* seated now.

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735), *Hymnum canamus Domino*; translated from Latin to English by Benjamin Webb, 1854. Hymn tune: JAM LUCIS ORTO SIDERE, 15th cent. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ:

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we would be holy and blameless before Him;

*In love, He predestined us to adoption as His children,
in accordance with His pleasure and His will;*

In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our sins, according to His grace;

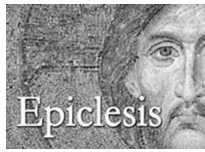
*He has made known to us the mystery of His will,
to bring all things in heaven and on earth into unity in Christ;*

Having believed in Him,
we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
the guarantee of our inheritance in Him,
to the praise of His glory.

*In the exceeding greatness of His power,
He raised Christ from the dead
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all principality and power and might and dominion,
and above every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come.*

**He has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

– from Ephesians 1:3-23



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

God demonstrated His own love for us in this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace,

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

– Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16

Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from death to life, and have seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places that He might fill all things. Yet, we confess that we have not always bowed before Him, and have not always acknowledged His rule. We have not always followed His leading, and have failed to glorify Him in our lives.

[Silence]

Forgive us, we pray. In Your grace, raise us from sin that we may walk faithfully in Your ways and delight in Your will, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,

The Holy One, our heav'nly King.

We worship You, we give You thanks;

We praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High,

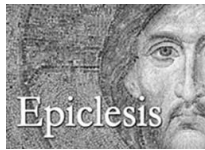
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.

We worship You, we give You thanks;

We praise You for Your glory,

Almighty God and Father. Amen.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010. Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis
("Glory to God in the highest")



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of our pardon in His grace:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, even when we were dead in our sins and transgressions, made us alive together with Christ –

By grace we have been saved –

And He raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

– Ephesians 2:4-7

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Holy

I will lift my voice, and I will sing,
I will sing holy, holy.
To my Lord and Savior, my God and King:
I will sing holy, holy.

Chorus:

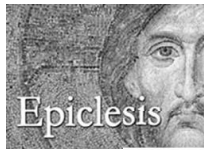
I will praise the Lamb of God
Who sits upon the throne.
I will worship Him,
And give the praise to Him alone.
He who was and is and is to come:
I will sing before His throne forever, forever.

All the angels sing, and they bow down,
And they sing holy, holy.
We, Your sons and daughters, we praise You now:
And we cry holy, holy.

Chorus

Holy, holy; holy, holy . . .

Donnie McClurkin. ©2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music.



THE WORD

Acts 1:1-11

Luke 24:44-53

Matthew 28:16-20

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,

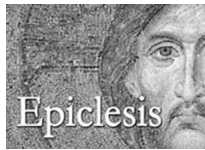
But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen



The Resurrection, Soichi Watanabe
Contemp.



Before the Throne of God Above

Before the Throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose Name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died my sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Before Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace:
One with Himself I cannot die; my soul is purchased by His Blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God,
With Christ my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863). Music: Vikki Cook. ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship.
CCLI Song #2306412.

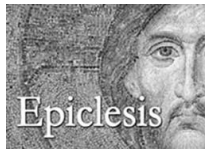
SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Hymn tune: OLD 100th (attributed to Louis Bourgeois), 1551. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674.



Benediction:

Jesus Christ, this man who is God, participated in our humanity to die for us and to be resurrected for us, and He now has ascended to the very throne of God to continually represent us to the Father.

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

We have a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven;

And who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

He who did everything that ever needed to be done to save us now continually stands before the Father interceding for us!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Adapted from Hebrews 7 and 8, and Robert Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004)

A thought about worship – “The early church fathers saw the ascension of the Lord as the lifting up of the human nature of Jesus to the throne of God. The eternal Word was united to a perfect human nature in Jesus. Because Jesus participated in our human nature (without sin) and because through faith we are united with Jesus, our human but redeemed nature, united with Jesus, is lifted to the very throne of God. Leo the Great, an early church father, puts this profound truth this way: ‘For on this day not only have we been confirmed in our possession of paradise, but we have entered heaven in the person of Christ; through his ineffable grace we have regained far more than we had lost through the devil’s hatred.’” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 159.)

Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39, 20:19-23

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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