

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

July 26, 2020 (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

O give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.

*Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wonders.*

Glory in His holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

*Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His face continually.*

One thing I have asked of the LORD, that I shall seek:

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple.**

In Your temple, O God, we meditate on Your steadfast love.

You remember Your covenant forever,

the word You commanded to a thousand generations.

Your praise, like Your name, reaches to the ends of the earth;

You are righteous in all Your ways.

How blessed are those You choose

and bring near to dwell in Your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,

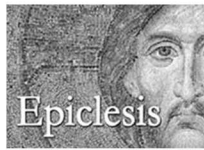
Your holy temple.

By awesome deeds You answer us in righteousness,

O God of our salvation, the hope of all the earth!

— from Psalms 105, 27, 48, 65





Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging,
Mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
Grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
Around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail,
Helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
Hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
His pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sov'reign God.

Chorus

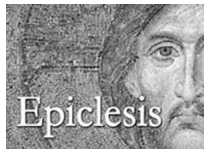
Let ev'ry creature in the sea and ev'ry flying bird,
Let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry field and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God who rules them by His Word.

Chorus

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

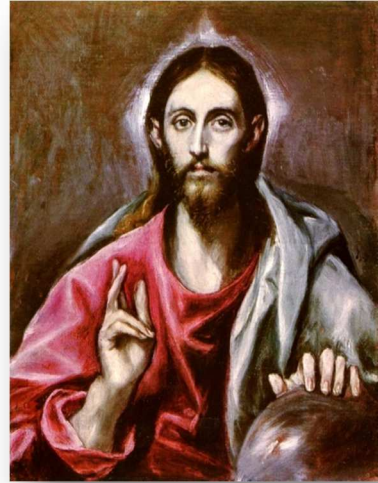
Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit



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 prai*-ses be:
Honor, glory, and domin*-ion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore*.
A*-men.

Text: Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th century;
transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker.
Music: Plainsong, 13th century.
Arr: Ellen Koehler. ©2013.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the hope of the gospel, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, the mystery which was hidden from past ages and generations but has now been manifested to us, His saints:

**Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.**

In Him all things in the heavens and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

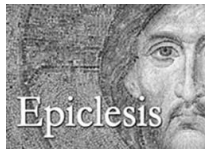
He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in everything He might be preeminent.

**For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things to
Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making
peace through the blood of His cross.**

And although we were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet now He has reconciled us in His fleshly body through death, in order to present us before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.

**God has made known to us the riches of the glory of this mystery:
Christ in us, the hope of glory.**

– from Colossians 1:15-28



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Make Your face shine on Your servants, and teach us Your ways.
Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
I have inclined my heart to keep Your decrees forever,
even to the end.

– from Psalm 119:111-112, 135

[Silence]

Most merciful God, **We confess to You and to one another,**
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
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.

[Silence]

Have mercy on us. **Accept our repentance, and accomplish in us**
the work of Your salvation, that we may show forth Your glory
in the world; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Send Out Your Light

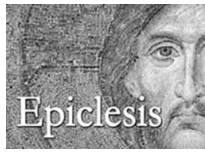
Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;
Send them that they may guide us.
Lord, may they bring us into Your courts,
To the heart of Your dwelling places.

Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;
Send them that they may guide us.
Come, and restore us, Lord God of Hosts;
Make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

Words and Music: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2014 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words based on Psalms 43:4, 84:1-2, and 80:19.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news!
Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.



**But Christ suffered and died for us;
He was raised from the dead and ascended on high,
where He reigns in power at the right hand of God the Father;
and He continues to intercede for us.**

And God has promised that nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

– from Romans 8:34-39

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art.
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

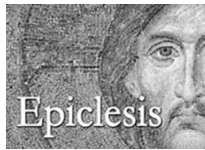
Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.
Be Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for my fight,
Be Thou my whole armor, be Thou my true might.
Be Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower.
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance now and always.
Be Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
O Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O ruler of all.

Ancient Irish Hymn (*Slane*); trans. Mary Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.



THE WORD

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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.

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,

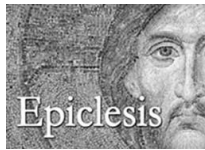
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

Amen.





I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

Out of the depths I cry to You,
In darkest places I will call.
Incline Your ear to me anew,
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were You to count my sinful ways,
How could I come before Your throne?
Yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.

I will wait for You, I will wait for You;
On Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.

So put your hope in God alone,
Take courage in His pow'r to save,
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave.

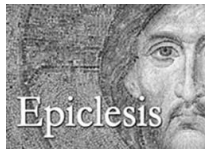
I will wait for You, I will wait for You; on Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You till my soul is satisfied.

Now He has come to make our way,
And God Himself has paid the price,
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice.

I will wait for You, I will wait for You; on Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You till my soul is satisfied.

I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
Through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Benediction:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ
is the light of the world and our steadfast hope:

Grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table,
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory. **Amen.**

And as we go forth, in faith and joy, to love and serve the Lord,
may He grant that what has been said with our lips we may believe
in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may
practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever.

Amen! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“To search the Scriptures is an excellent and profitable work for souls. Just as a tree is planted by streams of waters, the soul watered by divine Scripture is enriched and gives fruit (that is, righteous belief) in its season. It is adorned with evergreen branches—actions pleasing to God. Through the Holy Scriptures, we are trained to think rightly and to act in a manner pleasing to God. For in these words we are encouraged toward every virtue and dissuaded from every evil. . . . All who ask receive, those who seek find, and to those who knock it shall be opened. Therefore, let us knock at the beautiful garden of Scripture. It is fragrant, sweet, and blooming with various sounds of spiritual and divinely inspired birds. They sing all around our ears, capture our hearts, comfort the mourners, pacify the angry and fill us with everlasting joy. Scripture sets our mind on the gold, gleaming, brilliant back of the divine dove. Its bright wings rise to the Only-begotten Son who is the Heir of the spiritual vineyard's Farmer. The divine dove brings us through Him to the Father of Lights.”

– John of Damascus

Image credit. p. 3: *Pantocrator Christ.* El Greco, c. 1600. Pantocrator means “Ruler of All.”

Lectionary readings for next week: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;
Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

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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