

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy

January 8, 2023 (Baptism of the Lord)
Renewal of the Covenant

GATHERING

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever.

**We give You thanks, O LORD God, with our whole hearts.
We bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks
to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth.**

Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness!

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

The God of glory thunders!

The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning;

His voice shakes the wilderness!

The voice of the LORD is powerful, and full of majesty.

In His temple all say, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood,

Yes, the LORD sits enthroned as King forever.

The LORD will give strength to His people.

The LORD will bless His people with peace.

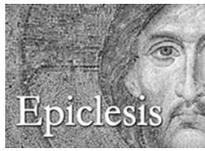
Come, let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation!

For the LORD is good and His mercy endures forever;

His Covenant Love continues through all generations!

— from Psalms 138, 29, 100





Let It Rise

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the praises of the King rise among us; Let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the joy of the King rise among us; Let it rise.

Oh, let it rise; Oh, let it rise.

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Holy Is the Lord God Almighty

Bridge

It is rising up all around; It's the anthem of the Lord's renown. (2x)

And together we sing; Everyone sing:

Chorus

Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory.
Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory.
The earth is filled with His glory.

Verse

We stand and lift up our hands, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.
We bow down and worship Him now:
How great, how awesome is He.

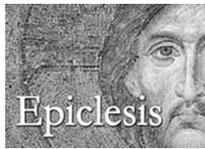
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's redeeming love.



Hitherto Thy love has blest me, Thou hast brought me to this place.
And I know Thy hand will bring me safely home by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1757. Hymn tune: NETTLETON; traditional American melody,
John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813 Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2003

PROFESSION OF FAITH

As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
firmly rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith,
just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

**In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
and we have been made complete in Him, who is the head
of all rule and authority, and principality and power.**

In Him we also were circumcised with a circumcision
made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh
by the circumcision of Christ.

**We were buried with Him in baptism,
in which we also were raised with Him through faith
in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.**

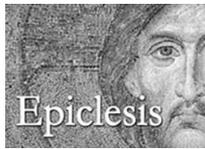
When we were dead in our sins and in the uncircumcision of our flesh,
God made us alive together with Christ.

**He forgave us all our transgressions,
having cancelled out the certificate of debt against us with its
legal demands; He set this aside, having nailed it to the cross.**

When He disarmed the rulers and authorities,
He made a public display of them,
having triumphed over them through Him.

**We hold fast to the Head, Christ Jesus the Lord,
from whom the entire body,
being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments,
grows with a growth which is from God.**

– from Colossians 2:6-19



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

– Colossians 3:1-3

All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

– from Romans 6:3-4

[Silence]

Eternal 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. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone, and we have wandered from Your pathway.

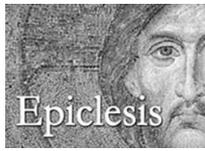
[Silent confessions]

**As we remember the cleansing water of baptism, O God,
we praise and give You thanks that You forgive us yet again.
Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin,
and to rise daily to new life in Christ,
who lives and reigns with You,
and in whose strong name we pray.
Amen.**

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord:

“I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. ... My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

– Ezekiel 37: 26-27

The steadfast love of the LORD

*is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him,
and His righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep His covenant
and remember to do His commandments.*

– Psalm 103:17-18

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise.

Christ Be With Me (St. Patrick's Prayer)

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me and before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore.

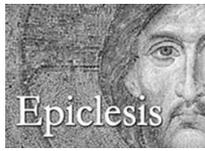
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in heart of all who know me.
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger,
Christ in quiet and in roar.

Chorus

Love, blessed Trinity of Three bound in unity
Who guide my journey.
I will arise with strength of heav'n, trusting in Your light
To guide my journey, shine before me,
Lead me home.

Pow'r to guide me, might to hold me,
Wisdom teach me, watching o'er me.
Ear to hear me, hand to guard me; Love to conquer ev'ry fear.

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Emma Townend, Joseph Townend, Stuart Townend.



THE WORD

Matthew 3:13-17
Colossians 2



THE COVENANT

Collect:

Father, You have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ as Mediator of a new covenant. Give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader:

In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him.

We stand within this covenant and we bear his name.

On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God.

Today, therefore, we have met to renew the covenant which binds us to God.

Let us claim the covenant God has made with his people, and accept the yoke of Christ. To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ himself is our only reward.

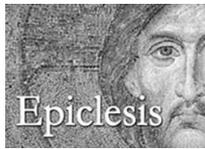
We take on the Yoke of Christ our guide.

Christ has many tasks to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests; others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves.

We take on the tasks of Christ our reward.

Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore let us dedicate ourselves anew to this covenant with God. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in his promises

People (with hands extended and palms upward):



**I give myself completely to You, O God.
Assign me to my place in Your creation.
Let me suffer for you.
Give me the work You would have me do.
Give me many tasks or have me step aside while You call others.
Put me forward or humble me.
Give me riches or let me live in poverty.
I freely give all that I am and have to You.
And now, holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am Yours. So be it.
May this Covenant made on earth continue for all eternity. Amen**

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.**



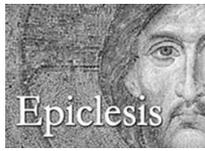
The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**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.**

Flow Like a River

Flow like a river, fall like the rain;
Streams of compassion flow from His throne.
Wide as the ocean, deep as the sea;
Life-giving fountain, is God's love for me.

Feast at the table of mercy, drink from the cup of His grace.
Dwell in His infinite goodness, live in His healing embrace.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Holy Is the Lord God Almighty (reprise)

Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory.
Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory.
The earth is filled with His glory.

Benediction:

God the Father, who sent His Spirit upon His Son,
bless you with the presence of His Spirit. **Amen.**

Jesus, who received the Spirit and manifested the Father,
abide in you and make you a manifestation of His life. **Amen.**

And God the Spirit, who came upon Christ in the fullness of power,
empower you to live in the pattern of baptismal spirituality
revealed in Jesus. **Amen.**

To the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship... “The baptized life is a life that is lived in the *pattern of death and resurrection*. . . . The way of being in Jesus, the way of living the new resurrected life, is through participation. . . . We participate in Christ by living the life of our baptism into his death and resurrection. This is a daily, existential, moment-by-moment experience as we choose in this or that situation to die to the sins for which Christ died and choose the life of the Spirit for which Christ was raised to a new life.”
(Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 146-147.)

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Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9;
John 1:29-42

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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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