

An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
*Liturgy*

January 29, 2023 (Fourth Sunday of Epiphany)

## GATHERING

The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains,  
the world, and all who dwell in it.

**He has established His faithfulness in the heavens!**

**I will sing of the LORD's great covenant love forever.**

The heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD;

Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.

**For who in the heavens or on earth can be compared to the LORD?**

**Righteousness and justice are the foundations of His throne.**

**Lovingkindness and truth are before His face.**

Blessed are those who know the joyful sound!

They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your presence.

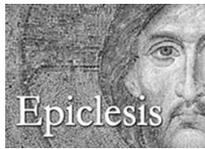
**In Your name we rejoice all day long, and celebrate Your  
righteousness, for You are our glory and strength.**

— from Psalm 24 and 89

The LORD has shown forth His glory.

Come, let us joyfully lift His praises.





*Sing to the Lord*

Eternal, Immortal God of all glory,  
Fearful in wonders and worthy of praise;  
The Alpha, Omega, Lord God Almighty,  
Wonderful, Beautiful, Ancient of Days.

*Chorus*

And I sing praise, I give You my heart,  
I sing praise, I give You my all,  
I sing praise –  
Sing to the Lord.

Redeemer, Messiah, Rock of the ages,  
A help in trouble, a tower of strength;  
Emmanuel, Jehovah, God of Creation,  
Wonderful, Beautiful, King of all kings.

*Bridge*

God of compassion and God of all gladness and  
Your tender mercies are new every morning, and  
God of compassion and God of all gladness and  
You dance around me,  
You dance around me.

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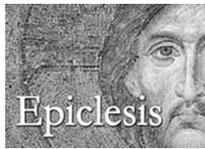
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

*To God Be the Glory*

*Chorus*

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.



Great things He has taught us,  
Great things He has done,  
And great our rejoicing  
Through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

*Chorus*

Words: Fanny J. Crosby. Hymn tune: W. Howard Doane. 1875.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.”

*For since, in the wisdom of God,  
the world through its wisdom did not know Him,  
God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached  
to save those who believe.*

**We proclaim Christ crucified,  
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,  
but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks,  
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

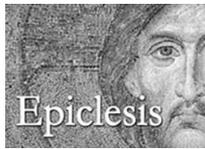
*God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;  
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;*

God chose what is low and despised in the world,  
things that are not,  
to reduce to nothing things that are,

*So that no one might boast in the presence of God.*

**He is the source of our life in Christ Jesus,  
who became for us wisdom from God –  
that is, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption –  
in order that, as it is written,  
“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”**

– from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old,  
with sacrifices for my transgressions and the sin of my soul?  
*God has told you what is good.*

*And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

– from Micah 6:6-8

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,  
and who may stand in His holy place?  
**Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
whose walk is blameless, who do what is righteous.**

[Silence]

*Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.*

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,  
and who may stand in His holy place?  
**Those who speak the truth from their hearts,  
Who do no wrong to a neighbor.**

[Silence]

*Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.*

O LORD, who may abide in Your tent?  
Who may dwell on Your holy hill?  
**Those who honor those who fear the LORD.**

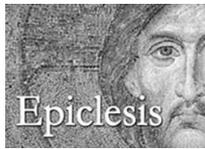
[Silence]

*Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.*

*They shall receive a blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of their salvation;  
they will never be shaken.*

This is the generation of those who seek Him,  
of those who seek Your face, O God.

– from Psalms 15 and 24



## *A Pure Heart*

A pure heart, that's what I long for,  
A heart that follows hard after You.  
(repeat)

A heart that hides Your Word so that sin will not come in,  
A heart that's undivided, but one You rule and reign.  
A heart that beats compassion, that pleases You, my Lord;  
A sweet aroma of worship that rises to Your throne.

CCLI Song #452695 ©1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Rusty Nelson

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, beloved, to this wonderful assurance of pardon;  
God's own words, handed down by faithful hands through the ages,  
trustworthy and true:

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is  
covered. Blessed are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. – from Psalm 32:1-2

**The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us.**

**He will bless those who fear the LORD,  
the small together with the great.**

– Psalm 115:12-13

## TIME OF OFFERING

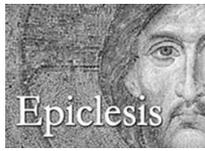
Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise.

### *Speak the Word*

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;  
The eternal, infallible word.  
Speak the truth to me; let it set me free.

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;  
The eternal, divine, holy word.

Let it calm my soul, shape and make me whole – Speak the word.



*Chorus:*

I will hide it in my heart, cherish every part;  
Let it heal, renew; cleanse me through and through.  
I will make it my delight, living by its light.  
My faith, I know, will rise  
In these words so rich and wise. Speak the word.

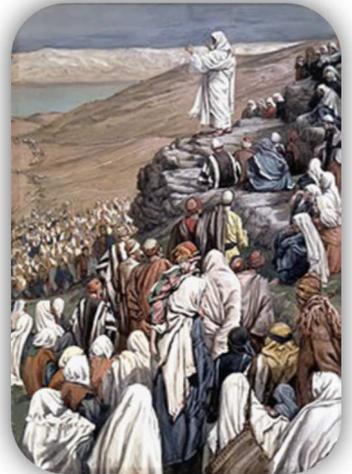
Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;  
The eternal, infallible word.

Let its power rise to dispel all lies.

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;  
The eternal, divine, holy word.

Let it light my path, as each promise stands – Speak the word.

CCLI Song #7057124 ©2016 McKinney Music, Inc.  
Tommy Walker. "Song of the Week," #11 (2016).



THE WORD

Matthew 5:1-12

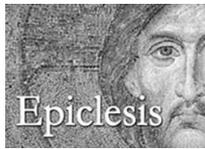
THE TABLE

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.**

**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.**

*Wonderful Words of Life*

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.  
Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty.

*Refrain:*

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all wonderful words of life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life.  
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven.

Sweetly echo the Gospel call, wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life.  
Jesus, our Savior, sanctify us forever.

Words and tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1874. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

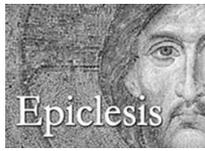
SENDING FORTH

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.

Public domain. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Tune: Old 100<sup>th</sup> (attributed to Louis Bourgeois)



**Benediction:**

Now, may our almighty and everlasting God,  
who governs all things both in heaven and on earth  
by His covenant love and faithfulness,  
mercifully grant that we would go forth from this place,  
poor in spirit and in meekness, but rich in faith and blessings,  
as we live in these truths:

His Kingdom is ours in the present,  
and a new heaven and earth is our inheritance in the future,  
through His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever.

**Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –***

“If some students can't learn through more difficult subjects, a kind, caring teacher will come on to their level and teach them by simpler means. Christ, the Word of God, did this. Paul said, ‘For seeing that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the word preached to save them that believe.’ Christ saw that people wouldn't think about God. Instead, with downcast eyes, they sought the knowledge of God in nature and in the sensory world. They imagined that mortal humans and demons were their gods. Therefore, the loving Savior of all, the Word of God, took on a body and walked among people like a human being. He met the mental capacity of all people halfway. That is to say, those who think God is physical can see the truth and recognize the Father through the Lord's physical works. Therefore, the people were drawn to Christ through whatever objects they fixed their minds on and learned the truth from all angles.” – Athanasius

***Image credits*** – p. 6: James Tissot, *The Sermon of the Beatitudes*, c. 1890; Daniel Bonnell, *Communion Cup*, contemp.

***Lectionary for next week:*** Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16;  
Matthew 5:13-20

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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