

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy

February 5, 2023 (Fifth Sunday of Epiphany)

GATHERING

O LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or You had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

You who seek the LORD, praise Him.

All you, His people, glorify Him and stand in awe.

**In the midst of the assembly we will praise You;
we will fulfill our vows before those who fear You.**

How blessed are those who dwell in Your house!

They are ever praising You.

**How blessed are those whose strength is in You,
in whose hearts are the highways to Zion!**

How blessed are those whom You choose
and bring near to You, to dwell in Your courts.

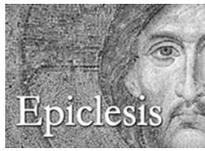
**We will abide in Your tabernacle forever;
we will trust in the shelter of Your wings.**

For You, O God, have heard our vows;

You have given us the heritage of those who fear Your name.

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 90, 22, 84, 65, 61





Come and Let Us Sing

Come and let us sing, come and let us sing,
Come and let us sing to the King of Kings.
(repeat)

Enter His gates with thanksgiving; enter His courts with praise.

Come and let us sing, come and let us sing,
Come and let us sing to the King of Kings.
(repeat)

Enter His gates with thanksgiving; enter His courts with praise.

He's worthy to be praised; exalt His holy name:
Glory and honor, majesty and power.

Come and let us shout, come and let us shout,
Come and let us shout to the Lord, our God.
(repeat)

Enter His gates with thanksgiving; enter His courts with praise.

He's worthy to be praised; exalt His holy name:
Glory and honor, majesty and power.

Come and let us sing, come and let us sing,
Come and let us sing to the King of Kings.
(repeat)

Come and let us sing to the King of Kings.

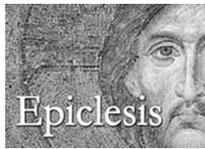
Jonathan Butler. ©2005 Universal Music/Brentwood Benson Songs.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

As the Deer

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.



Chorus

You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
*God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.*

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

*He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried.*

The third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
*He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.*

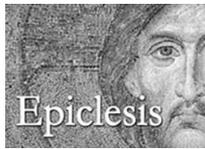
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father, and with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

– Nicene Creed



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house,
and the place where Your glory dwells.

Examine me, O LORD, and try me; test my mind and my heart.

For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes.

— Psalm 26:2, 8

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

Eternal Light, **shine into our hearts.**

Eternal Goodness, **deliver us from evil.**

Eternal Power, **be our strength and support.**

Eternal Compassion, **have mercy upon us.**

[Silence]

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, **forgive us and renew us. Grant that we may ever seek Your face with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and be brought by Your infinite mercy to Your holy presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

—from a prayer of Alcuin of Tours, 8th C, alt.

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.

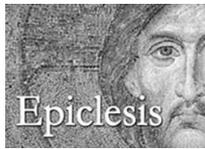
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
God, the well-spring of life.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion;
and to You shall vows be performed.

O you who hear and answer prayer! to You shall all flesh come.



**When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
You forgive our transgressions.**

How blessed are those You choose
and bring near to live in Your courts!

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,
the holiness of Your temple!**

By awesome deeds You answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
You are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas!

– from Psalm 65:1-5

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise.

Lord, Let Your Servant Now Depart

Lord, let Your servant now depart
Into Your gracious promised rest.
Since eager eyes, which You have made,
Have been with Your salvation blest.

Which all this time Your favored saints and holy prophets only knew.
Long since prepared, but now revealed, for all creation now to view.

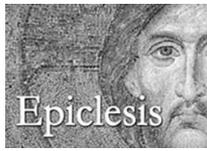
Bridge/Ending:

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The glorious God whom we adore:
Be glory as it was before,
Is now, and shall be evermore.

And now You've shown a fallen world the only way to saving grace.
And how that Light is glory now of ev'ry tribe and tongue and race!

Lord, let Your servant now depart
Into Your gracious promised rest.
Since eager eyes, which you have made,
Have been with Your salvation blest.

Based on the classic text. *Nunc Dimittis*. Words: Chris Alford. Music: Ellen Koehler.
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THE WORD

Luke 2:22-40



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.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again!



The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done

On earth as in heav'n.

Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins

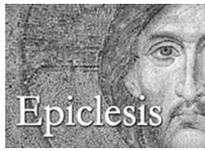
As we forgive those who sin against us;

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours.

Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)



More Like Jesus

You came to the world You created,
Trading Your crown for a cross.
You willingly died, Your innocent life paid the cost.

Counting Your status as nothing,
The King of all kings came to serve;
Washing my feet, covering me with Your love.

Chorus:

If more of You means less of me, take everything.
Yes, all of You, is all I need; take everything.

You are my life and my treasure,
The One that I can't live without.
Here at Your feet, my desires and dreams I lay down.
Here at Your feet, my desires and dreams I lay down.

Bridge:

O, Lord, change me like only You can.
Here with my heart in Your hands,
Father, I pray: Make me more like Jesus.
This world is dying to know who You are.
You've shown us the way to Your heart.
So, Father, I pray: Make me more like Jesus.

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songs. Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood, Kristian Stanfill, Brett Younker.

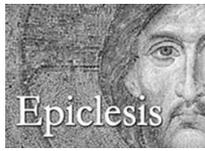
SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Lord, Let Your Servant Now Depart (reprise)

Lord, let your servant now depart
Into your gracious promised rest.
Since eager eyes, which you have made,
Have been with your salvation blest.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the glorious God whom we adore:
Be glory as it was before, is now, and shall be evermore.



Benediction:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that He may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“A sound mind that avoids danger and is devoted to piety and truth will meditate eagerly on those things God has made understandable. People with sound minds will acquaint themselves with and come easily to understand this knowledge by daily study. These things can be seen plainly. They are clearly and unambiguously expressed in the sacred Scriptures. . . . Therefore, since the entire Scriptures, the prophets, and the Gospels can be clearly, unambiguously, and harmoniously understood by everyone (although not all believe them), and since they proclaim that one God, to the exclusion of all others, formed all things by His word, whether visible or invisible, heavenly or earthly, in the water or under the earth, . . . those who blind their eyes to such clear evidence and who won't accept the truth of the message are fools. They blind themselves and by their obscure interpretations of the parables imagine that they have found a God of their own.”

– Irenaeus

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Lectionary for next week: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

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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