

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
March 5, 2023 (Second Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

I will lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where shall my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

**He will not allow your foot to slip;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

**The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**

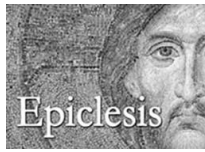
The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.

**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

– Psalm 121





Made Me Glad

I will bless the Lord forever;
I will trust Him at all times.
He has delivered me from all fear;
He has set my feet upon a rock.
And I will not be moved,
And I'll say of the Lord –

Chorus:

You are my Shield, my Strength,
My Portion, Deliverer;
My Shelter, Strong Tower,
My very present Help in time of need.

Whom have I in heaven but You?
There's none I desire beside You.
And You have made me glad,
I'll say of the Lord –

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

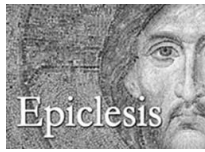
How Great Is our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty:
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice.

Chorus

How great is our God, sing with me: How great is our God;
And all will see how great, how great is our God.

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands:
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead Three in One: Father, Spirit, Son;
The Lion and the Lamb, Lion and the Lamb.



Bridge

Name above all names, worthy of all praise;
My heart will sing, How great is our God.
You're the name above all names,
You're worthy of all praise;
My heart will sing how great is our God

CCLI Song #4348399 ©2004 worshiptogether.com songs;
Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

God has given us life –
we who were dead in the trespasses and sins
in which we once walked,
following the course of this world;
we who were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of humankind.

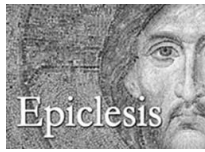
**But God, being rich in mercy,
because of His great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
made us alive together with Christ,
and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable
riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life.**

For God did not send His Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

— from Ephesians 2:1-9; John 3:16-17



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy:

“I dwell in the high and holy place, and with the contrite and lowly
of spirit, in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the
heart of the contrite.”

– Isaiah 57:15

Though the LORD is high and exalted, yet He regards the lowly;
but the proud and haughty He sees only from afar.

– Psalm 138:6

*“These are the ones I look on with favor,” says the LORD, “those who
are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at My word.”*

– Isaiah 66:2

Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

**We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We do not always love you with a pure heart.

We do not always love our neighbor as ourselves.

We do not always do justice and love kindness.

[Silence]

**We desire to walk humbly with You, in Your ways, for the sake of
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Have mercy on us, O God, in your
loving-kindness. Cleanse us from our sin, that we may be holy
and blameless before You, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

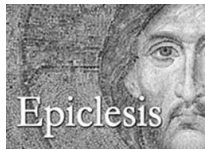
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. (repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God demonstrates His own love for us in this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

*There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus!*

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

*God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world,
but so that the world through Him might be saved.*

Beloved, this is His promise:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

– from Romans 5:8, 8:1; John 3:16-17; 1 John 1:5-9

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise

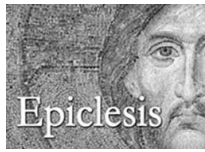
O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward to my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

Traditional. Text: Samuel Trevor Francis. Tune: Thomas J. Williams (Hymn tune: EBENEZER);
Setting Ellen Koehler ©2008



THE WORD

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17



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!



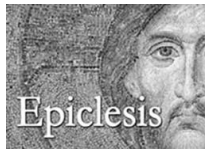
The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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)

God, the Uncreated One (King Forevermore)

God, the uncreated One, the Author of salvation,
Wrote the laws of space and time,
And fashioned worlds to His design.



The One whom angel hosts revere hung the stars like chandeliers,
Numbered every grain of sand, knows the heart of every man.
He is King forever; He is King forever; He is King forevermore.

God, our fortress and our strength,
The Rock on which we can depend;
Matchless in His majesty, His power and authority;
Unshaken by the schemes of man, never changing Great I Am.
Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall, He is faithful through it all.
Crown Him King forever; crown Him King forever;
Crown Him King forevermore.

Mighty God in mortal flesh, forsaken by a traitor's kiss;
The curse of sin and centuries did pierce the lowly Prince of Peace.
Lifted high, the sinless Man; crucified, the spotless Lamb;
Buried by the sons of man, rescued by the Father's hand.
To reign as King forever, reign as King forever,
Reign as King forevermore.

King eternal, God of grace, we crown You with the highest praise.
Heaven shouts and saints adore, You're holy, holy, holy Lord!
What joy in everlasting life, all is love and faith is sight.
Justice rolls and praises rise at the name of Jesus Christ.
King of kings forever, King of kings forever,
King of kings forevermore.

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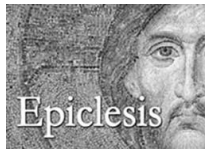
SENDING FORTH

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.
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Benediction:

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent—walking in Christ’s own footsteps, taking on His likeness and His virtues—that you may learn more fully to live as subjects of His kingdom in an upside-down world. **Amen.**

And just as Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem and the work He had to do there, so also may we set our faces in this Lenten season, as we, His covenant people, follow Him on the way to the cross.

We remember, and we go with grateful hearts into the world to love and serve the Lord, our true blessing.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“‘We must be persuaded how much God loved us and what type of people we were whom he loved.’ We must be persuaded how much God loved us so that we don’t shrink from Him in despair. And we need to be shown also what kind of people we are whom He loved so that we also don’t withdraw from Him out of pride. But He dealt with us so that we could profit from His strength, and, in the weakness of humility, our holiness could be perfected. One of the Psalms implies this. It says, ‘Thou, O God, didst send a spontaneous rain, whereby Thou didst make Thine inheritance perfect, when it was weary.’ The ‘spontaneous rain’ is grace given freely and not according to merit. He didn’t give it because we were worthy, but because He willed. Knowing this, we shouldn’t trust in ourselves. That is what is meant by being made ‘weak.’ However, He perfects us and says to the Apostle Paul, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ We, then, must be persuaded how much God loved us and what type of people we were whom He loved. The former is important, lest we despair; the latter, lest we become proud.”

– Augustine

Image credits – p. 1: Hercules Brabazon, *Mountain Landscape* (d. 1906); p. 6: Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Jesus and Nicodemus*, 1899; Daniel Bonnell, *Communion Cup*, contemp.

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

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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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