

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
February 22, 2023 (Ash Wednesday)



GATHERING

We are gathered to worship God in spirit and in truth.

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

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

**LORD, teach us to number our days, that we may gain
a heart of wisdom. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

Let Your work appear to Your servants,
and Your majesty to their children.

Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us.

And establish the work of our hands for us.

Yes, establish the work of our hands.

The Covenant Love of the LORD endures forever.

– from Psalm 90

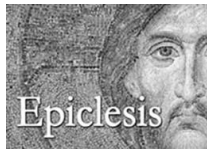
Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be.
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013. Words and tune public domain.
American Folk Hymn; William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835.



INVOCATION

Almighty and merciful God, You called us forth from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. You claimed us for Christ in the waters of our baptisms. You despise nothing You have made, and You forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Look upon us and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

**Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that, truly repenting of our sins,
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may obtain from You, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness,
through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 58:1-12 (Reading)

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 51:1-17 (Antiphonal Reading and Response)

Create In Me

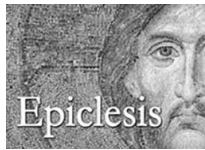
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
(repeat)

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord;
Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
And renew a right spirit within me.

©1984 Sparrow Records. Keith Green

Men: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
in Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Women: *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.*



M: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

*W: Against You only have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight;
and so You are justified when you speak,
and upright in Your judgment.*

M: Surely, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and a sinner from my mother's womb.

*W: Yet behold, You desire truth deep within me,
and in the hidden places You will make me know wisdom.*

Interlude

M: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

*W: Make me to hear joy and gladness,
that the bones You have broken may rejoice.*

M: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and sustain me with a willing spirit.

*W: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
and sinners will turn back to You.*

M: Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God of my salvation;
then my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

W: O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise.

M: For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

*W: The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.*

(Sung)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
(repeat)

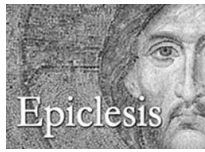
Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord;

Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;

And renew a right spirit within me.

SILENCE



INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE



IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember that only by Your gracious gift are we given eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

(Those who wish to have ashes imposed will come forward.)

Here Is Love

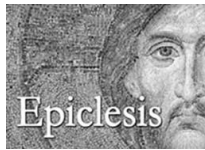
Here is love, vast as the ocean, lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom, shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten, throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion, fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above,
And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Of Your fullness You are pouring Your great pow'r and love anew,
Without measure, full and boundless, drawing out our hearts to You.
You alone will be our glory, nothing in the world we see.
You have cleansed and sanctified us, You Yourself have set us free.

Let us all, Your love accepting, love You ever, all our days;
Let us seek Your kingdom only, and our lives be to Your praise.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2011. William Rees (vs. 1-2); transl. from Welsh by William Edwards (1900) verses 3-4 attributed to William Williams (adapted by Ellen Koehler); Tune: Robert Lowry, 1876.



THIRD LESSON: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (Reading)

Lord, Have Mercy

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken,
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim.
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom;
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

Chorus:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on me.

I have built an altar where I've worshipped things of man;
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You.
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing;
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again.

I have longed to know You, and all Your tender mercies,
Like a river of forgiveness, ever flowing without end.
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence,
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night.

CCLI Song #2989578 ©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Steve Merkel

THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

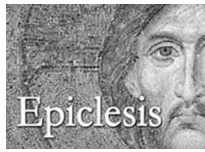
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

Chorus

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's emerging from the grave.

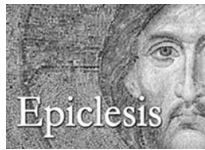
Chorus

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

Chorus

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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LINGERING AROUND THE TABLE / PRAYER, STATIONS

FOURTH LESSON: Psalm 103:3-4, 8-10, 13-14 (Responsorial)

Bless the Lord

Refrain:

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



Cantor (solo):

It is God
 who forgives all your guilt,
Who heals ev'ry one of your ills,
Who redeems your life from the grave,
Who crowns you with love and compassion.



Refrain

Cantor:

The Lord is compassion and love,
Slow to anger and rich in mercy.
God does not treat us according to our sins
Nor repay us according to our faults.

Refrain

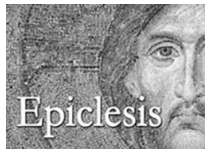
Cantor:

As a Father has compassion on his children,
The Lord has pity on those who fear Him;
For God knows of what we are made,
God remembers that we are dust.

Refrain

Songs and Prayers from Taizé;

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SENDING FORTH

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake, He made Him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

On this journey of Lent, may we be reconciled.

As we work together with Him, we urge you also
not to accept the grace of God in vain.

For now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation!

On this journey of Lent, may we accept the grace of God.

Therefore, live as servants of God,
approved and commended in Christ:
through great endurance; in afflictions and hardships;
by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit,
genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; –

On this journey of Lent, may we so live.

With weapons of righteousness
for the right hand and for the left;
in ill repute and good repute;
as unknown, yet well-known and accepted in Him;
dying to self, yet alive in Him;
as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing,
and yet possessing everything.

**On this journey of Lent,
may we take up the cross of Christ
as we depart now in peace.**

– based on 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

A time of quiet contemplation and interaction with the stations before departing.

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113

Text the word **Epiclesis** to 22828 to sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

Text the word **Connect** to (916)347-5038 to join our text alert list.

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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