

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 19, 2023 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing!

**The LORD is my strength and my song;
and He has become my salvation.**

Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

**The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The
LORD is the defense of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?**

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

**We remember the deeds of the LORD, and meditate on all His
works; for He is great, and His way is holy.**

For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.

Because the LORD is always before us; we shall not be moved.

Therefore our hearts are glad,

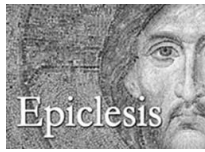
Our souls rejoice, and we rest secure.

He has made known the path of life;

In His presence is fullness of joy, forevermore!

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 100, 118, 27, 77, 16





I Will Sing

I will sing (I will sing)
Of Your great love (of Your great love),
And I will tell (I will tell)
Of all You've done (of all You've done).
With Your praise on my lips
I'll declare Your faithfulness;
I will sing (I will sing)
Of Your great love.

Verse 1

I seek You in the morning,
Your tenderness and mercy fill my cup.
Your grace is overflowing,
You satisfy my needs and fill me up.
So I will sing –

Verse 2

The heavens praise Your wonders,
And I will lift my voice and join the song.
Your glory shines around me,
Your faithfulness surrounds me all day long.
So I will sing –

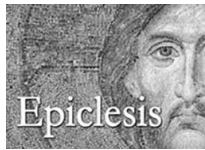
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.



Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm | Music: William M. Runyan.
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PROFESSION OF FAITH

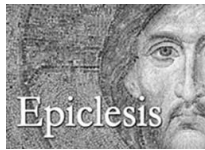
Christ Himself bore our sins
in His own body on the tree,
that we might die to sin
and live to righteousness.
By His wounds you have been healed.
For you were like sheep going astray,
but now you have returned
to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.



– 1 Peter 2:24-25

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and lovingkindness
will follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

– Psalm 23



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to Your servants who
walk before You with all their heart. – 1 Kings 8:23

*Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You,
And Your righteousness to the upright in heart!* – Psalm 36:10

Most holy 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.
**Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me;
for in You my soul takes refuge.** – Psalm 57:1

[Silence]

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 have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.

**Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me;
for in You my soul takes refuge.** – Psalm 57:1

[Silence]

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

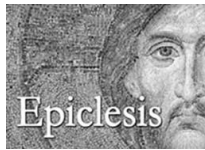
**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and
forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your
way, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Grant us peace.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. – 1 Timothy 1:12

Therefore, beloved, we hold fast to these sure promises of our God:

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* – 1 John 1:9

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

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

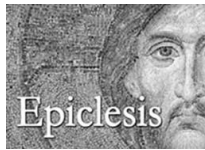
My Shepherd will supply my need: Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
His presence is my stay;
One word of His supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
His hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
His oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

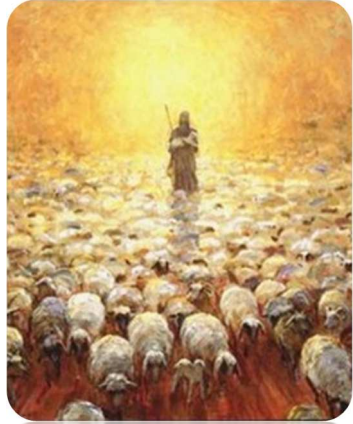
No more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719. Hymn Tune: RESIGNATION. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2010



THE WORD

Psalm 23



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 (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,

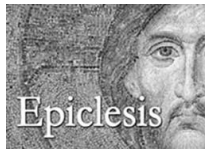
But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen





All the Way My Savior Leads Me

All the way my Savior leads me;
Who have I to ask beside?
How could I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my guide?
All the way my Savior leads me,
And cheers each winding path I tread,
And gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living Bread?

Chorus

You lead me, and keep me from falling.
You carry me close to Your heart.
And surely Your goodness and mercy
Will follow me.

All the way my Savior leads me; O, the fullness of His love!
O, the sureness of His promise in the triumph of His blood.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal, wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song through endless ages: "Jesus led me all the way."

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worshiptogether.com songs. Fanny Jane Crosby, Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman.

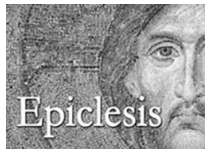
SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Benediction

May the Lord bless us and keep us.
May the Lord smile on us, shine His light upon us.
May the Lord lift us, turn His face towards us,
Give us His peace, give us His peace.
Blessed we came to this place today,
And blessed now, we will go.
In the name of the Father, the Spirit, and the Son.
Go now in peace; go now in peace.

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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, in purity of heart, and trusting in His goodness and mercy—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 –

“Feed us, Your children, as sheep. Master, fill us with righteousness from Your own pasture. Instructor, give us food on Your holy mountain. . . . ‘And I will be,’ He says, ‘their Shepherd,’ and will be as near to them as clothes to their skin. He wants to save my flesh by enveloping it in the robe of immortality, and He has anointed my body. ‘They shall call Me,’ He says, ‘and I will say, Here am I.’ You heard sooner than I expected, Master. ‘And if they pass over, they shall not slip,’ says the Lord. For we who are passing over to eternal life will not fall into corruption because He will sustain us. For so He has said and so He has willed. Our Instructor is righteously good. ‘I came not,’ He says, ‘to be ministered unto, but to minister.’ Therefore, He is introduced in the Gospel as ‘wearied,’ because He toiled for us and promised ‘to give His life as a ransom for many.’ For Christ alone is the Good Shepherd. He is generous and gives us the greatest of all gifts, His own life. He is extremely good and loving to men, while, when He might have been Lord, He wished to become a brother to humanity. He was so good that He died for us.”

– Clement of Alexandria

Image credits – p. 1: Mosaic of the Good Shepherd, Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Ravenna, Italy, 5th C.; p. 3: Daniel Bonnell, *The Shepherd and the Star*, contemp.; p. 6: Tim Wang, *The Shepherd*, contemp.; Greek Cross with Chalice, 1960., Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Lectionary for next week: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

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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