

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy

April 16, 2023 (Second Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power

The blood that Jesus shed for me ‘way back on Calvary,
The blood that gives me strength from day to day;
It will never lose its pow’r.

Chorus

It reaches to the highest mountain; it flows to the lowest valley.
The blood that gives me strength from day to day;
It will never lose its pow’r.

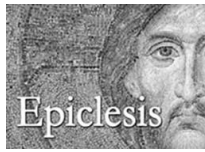
It soothes my doubt and calms my fears, and it dries all my tears. . . .

CCLI Song #11885 ©1966 Manna Music. André Crouch.

Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
Come, let us sing for joy, and worship the risen Lord!





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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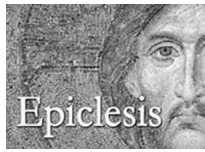
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Easter Invocation (Jesus Christ Is Risen Today)

Sing we to our God above: Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host: Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: fourth verse of *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*, a 14th century Latin hymn;
transl. John Walsh, in *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; this verse, Charles Wesley, 1740.
Hymn tune: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1817.
Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By His great mercy He has given us a new birth
into a living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading.

**This inheritance is kept in heaven for us,
who are being protected by the power of God through faith
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

*In this you rejoice,
even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,
so that the genuineness of your faith –
being more precious than gold
which, though perishable, is tested by fire –
may be found to result in praise and glory and honor
when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

Although you have not seen Him, you love Him;
and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him
and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
*For you are receiving the outcome of your faith,
the salvation of your souls.*

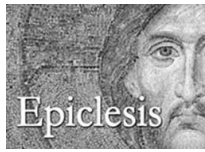
– 1 Peter 1:3-9

**By His resurrection He has overcome death
so that He might make us share in the righteousness
He won for us by His death.**

**By His power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.
Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.**

– from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 45





PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral call to confession

Lord, You have called us to be Your own.

You have given us new life and a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We love You, and we want to live for You. Yet we confess that we do not always follow Your ways.

Lord, in Your grace and mercy, forgive us.

[Silent confessions]

Lord, help us to spread Your goodness everywhere we go.

Flood our souls with Your spirit and life.

Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel Your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus! ... Let us preach You without preaching, not by words only but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You. Amen.

– from a prayer by John Henry Newman

Purify My Heart

Purify my heart,
Touch me with Your cleansing fire;
Take me to the cross,
Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe Your life in me,
Kindle a love
That flows from Your throne.
Oh, purify my heart,
Purify my heart.

CCLI Song #1314323; ©1993 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; Jeff Nelson

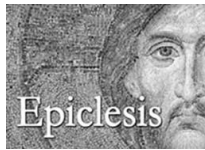
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from You.”

I have set the LORD continually before me;

because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.



Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

*For You do not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor let your faithful one see decay.*

You make known to me the path of life.

In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Thanks be to God!

– from Psalm 16

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

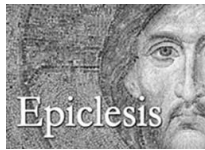
See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Chorus:

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die
And find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace
Draw near, and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

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Watts, J. D. Walt, Jesse Reeves and Lowell Mason. CCLI License # 3097801



THE WORD

John 20:19-31



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,

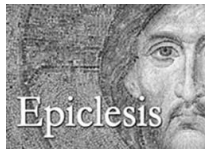
But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen.





Breathing the Breath

We have nothing to give that didn't first come from Your hands.
We have nothing to offer You which You did not provide.
Every good perfect gift comes from Your kind and gracious heart;
And all we do is give back to You what always has been Yours.

Chorus

Lord, we're breathing the breath
That You gave us to breathe
To worship You, to worship You.
And we're singing these songs
With the very same breath
To worship You, to worship You.

Who has given to You that it should be paid back to him?
Who has given to You as if You needed anything?
From You and to You and through You come all things, O Lord;
And all we do is give back to You what always has been Yours.

Bridge:

We are breathing the breath
That You gave us to breathe (repeat)

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

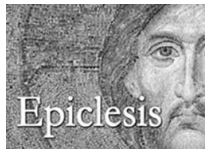
Doxology

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

Beloved, the glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of Jesus Christ, overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Now, as He stood in the midst of His disciples, the conqueror of sin and death, and spoke peace to them and breathed the Holy Spirit into their hearts, so may our encounter with the living Christ compel us to go forth into the world, giving witness to what we have seen and believed, to love and serve the Lord.

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the ancient Fathers –

“Our confession must not contain lazy or deliberately vague words. There must not be any space between our heart and lips, lest what should be the confession of true reverence become a mask for evil. The Word must be near us and within us. There must not be any delay between the heart and the lips. We must have a faith of conviction as well as of words. . . . The Apostle Paul explains the prophet's words: ‘That is the word of faith, which we preach; because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved.’ . . . Faith lies in simplicity, righteousness in faith, and true godliness in confession. For God doesn't call us to the blessed life through tiring investigations. He doesn't tempt us with rhetoric. The way to eternity is plain and easy: believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess that He is the Lord. . . . Jesus Christ died so that we could live in Him.”

– Hilary of Poitiers

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Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

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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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