

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
May 7, 2023 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

*Let us come before Him with thanksgiving
and extol Him with music and song.*

**The LORD is my rock and my salvation,
my shield and fortress.**

**I will call upon the LORD,
who alone is worthy to be praised.**

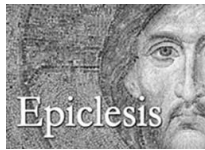
For who is God, but the LORD?

And who is a rock, except our God?

**The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation!**

— from Psalms 18 and 95:1-2





Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging,
Mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
Grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
Around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

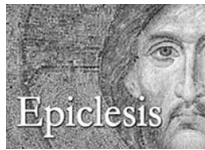
Lord, we are weak and frail,
Helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
Hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
His pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sov'reign God.

Chorus

Let ev'ry creature in the sea
And ev'ry flying bird,
Let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry field
And valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
In all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word.

Chorus

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God, and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows; fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man:
Glory and honor, praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; Transl. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873.
Hymn tune: CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842.
Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Coming to Him as to a living stone,
rejected by men,
but chosen and precious in the sight of God –

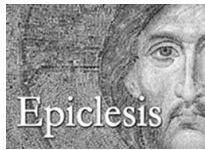
**We also, as living stones,
are being built up as a spiritual house,
a holy priesthood,
to offer up spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

For in Scripture it says,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a chief cornerstone,
chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

To us then who believe, this stone is precious.

– from 1 Peter 2:4-7a



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

In You, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in Your righteousness.

*Incline Your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;
be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.*

**You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for Your name's sake lead me and guide me.**

Take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for You are my refuge.

*Into Your hand I commit my spirit;
You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.*

**You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for Your name's sake lead me and guide me.**

– Psalm 31:1-5

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.



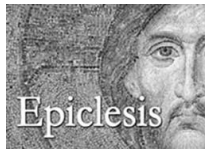
[Silent confessions]

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

People of God, this is good news indeed of forgiveness and pardon:



You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own possession,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him
who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

– from 1 Peter 2:9-10

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

All To Us

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation,
You are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You, Jesus.
We believe; You're all to us.
(repeat)

Chorus:

Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You're all to us.

Only Son of God, sent from heaven; hope and mercy at the cross.
You are everything, You're the promise. Jesus, You are all to us.

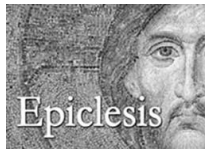
Chorus

Bridge

You're all to us; You're all to us; You're all to us, You are.

When this passing world is over, we will see You face to face.
And forever we will worship;
Jesus, You are all to us. Jesus, You are all to us.

CCLI Song #5869860 ©2010 worshiptogether.com songs.
Chris Tomlin/Jesse Reeves/Matt Maher/Matt Redman.



THE WORD

John 14:1-14

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)

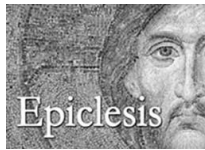
O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,

Greatest treasure of my longing soul,

My God, like You there is no other.

True delight is found in You alone.



Your grace, a well too deep to fathom,
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach;
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom,
My highest good, and my unending need.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Strong defender of my weary heart,
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver,
And my shield against his hateful darts;
My song when enemies surround me,
My hope when tides of sorrow rise,
My joy when trials are abounding,
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Gracious Savior of my ruined life,
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders,
In my place, You suffered, bled, and died.
You rose, the grave and death are conquered.
You broke my bonds of sin and shame.
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
May all my days bring glory to Your Name.

CCLI Song #7096627 ©2017 Sovereign Grace Worship. Nathan Still.

Jesus Lord To Me

Jesus, Jesus Lord to me: Master, Savior, Prince of Peace.
Ruler of my heart today; Jesus, Lord to me

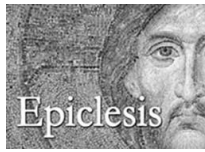
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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Our Great God (chorus)

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!



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.

Amen.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

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

– from 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

A thought about worship from the ancient Fathers –

“It is no wonder that Jesus is named after many good things in the Gospel. If we look at the names by which the Son of God is called, we will understand how many of these good things He is. The feet of those who preach His name are beautiful. One good thing is life. Jesus is the Life. Another good thing is the light of the world (when it is true light that enlightens people). And the Son of God is said to be all these things. Another good thing, in addition to life and light, is the truth. A fourth is the way that leads to truth. Our Savior teaches us that He is all these things. He says: ‘I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.’ Ah, isn’t it good that the Lord shook off earth and mortality to rise again? And we have obtained this benefit from the Lord: that He is the Resurrection. He says, ‘I am the Resurrection.’ The door through which one enters into the greatest joy is also good. And Christ says, ‘I am the door.’ . . . We must not neglect mentioning the Word, who is God after the Father of all. For this another good, no less than the others. Happy, then, are those who accept these goods and receive them from those who announce their blessings, those whose feet are beautiful.”

– Origen

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Lectionary for next week: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3: 13-22;
John 14:15-21

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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