

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
May 14, 2023 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Living Water

Come, Living Water flow through me like a river.
My heart's been thirsting so long.
Flood through my soul and pour out your mercy.
Come, Living Water, fill me.

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Bob Carlisle and Randy Thomas

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;
Sing the glory of His name!
Make His praise glorious.
Say to God:

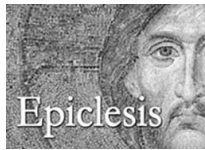
**How awesome are Your works!
All the earth will worship You,
and will sing praises
to Your name!**

Come and see the works of God,
who is awesome in His deeds
toward the children of men.

**He has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.
We have been tested and tried.
He has refined us as silver is refined,
and He has brought us out
into a place of abundance.**

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of His praise be heard!





Only A Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness tremble?
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendour outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.

Chorus:

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory outshines the fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God.

Chorus

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God.

Chorus

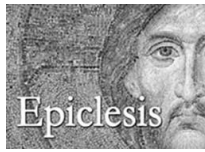
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

We Fall Down

We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus,
The greatness of mercy and love at the feet of Jesus.



And we cry holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

CCLI Song #2437367 ©1998 worshiptogether.com songs; Chris Tomlin

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible;**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
*God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.*

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

*He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried.*

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

*He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.*

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

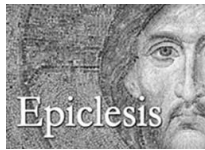
He proceeds from the Father,
and with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.
*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*

**We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come.**

Amen.

– Nicene Creed



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

**If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the LORD would not have listened.**

But truly God has listened;

He has given heed to the words of our prayer.

**Blessed be God, because He has not rejected our prayers
or removed His steadfast love from us.**

— from Psalm 66:16-20

[Silence]

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

Refrain:

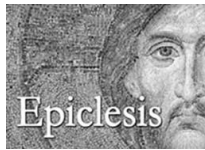
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?

Words: Julia H. Johnston, 1911. Music: Daniel B. Towner, 1910.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word and promise of the Lord:



“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;

I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh, and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”

– Ezekiel 36:25-27

“I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. ... My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

– Ezekiel 37:26-27

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Fountain of Grace

You have been faithful when I have been faithless,

Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Forever giving when I have been selfish,

Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Still the beginning of all that is holy,

Unsearchable Ancient of Days.

I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,

Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You were the constant when I chose to wander,

Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You were forgiveness when I cried for mercy,

Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You are the author of all that is finished,

I owe You my life and my praise.

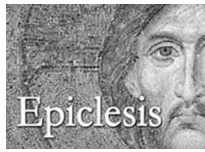
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,

Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Pour out the water of life on this vessel,

Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

CCLI Song #2552558 (lyrics) ©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music. Twila Paris.



THE WORD

1 Peter 3:13-22

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

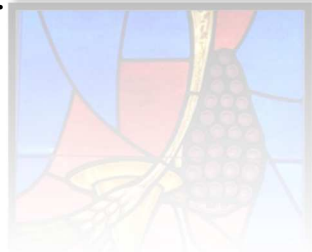
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

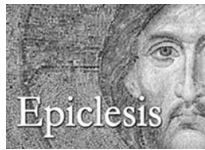
And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen.





Flow Like a River

Flow like a river, fall like the rain;
Streams of compassion flow from His throne.
Wide as the ocean, deep as the sea;
Life-giving fountain, is God's love for me.

Feast at the table of mercy,
Drink from the cup of His grace.
Dwell in His infinite goodness,
Live in His healing embrace.

CCLI Song #2989523 ©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Steve Merkel.

Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain. Holy, holy is He.
Sing a new song to Him who sits on Heaven's mercy seat.

Chorus

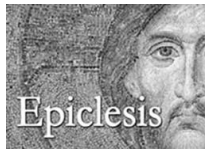
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev'rything and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and
Glory and power be
To You, the only wise King.

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,
At the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power,
Breath and living water,
Such a marv'lous mystery.

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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Benediction: Renewal of our Baptisms

Eternal God,
from the waters of chaos in the beginning;
the destroying, then renewing, waters of the flood;
the waters of the sea that delivered Your children;
to Jesus' baptismal waters of the Jordan anointed by Your Spirit;
You nourish, sustain, renew, and recreate through the gift of water.

**Renew our baptisms now,
as we remember being buried with Christ in His death,
raised with Christ in His resurrection,
and reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

In joyful obedience to your Son,
we celebrate our fellowship in Him in faith.
We pray that all who have passed through the waters of baptism
may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**To Him, to You, and to the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever,
as we now depart to walk out our baptisms.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!**

A thought about worship... “The baptized life is a life that is lived in the *pattern of death and resurrection*. . . . The way of being in Jesus, the way of living the new resurrected life, is through participation. . . . We participate in Christ by living the life of our baptism into his death and resurrection. This is a daily, existential, moment-by-moment experience as we choose in this or that situation to die to the sins for which Christ died and choose the life of the Spirit for which Christ was raised to a new life.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 146-147.)

Image credit – p. 1: Solchi Watanabe, *Offering to God and God's Promise*, 2011.

Lectionary for next week: Acts 1:1-11; Psalms 47 and 93; Ephesians 1:15-23;
Luke 24:44-53

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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