

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 21, 2023 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Ascension of the Lord

GATHERING

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty
and girded with strength.

His throne is established from of old;

He is from everlasting.

O clap your hands, all peoples;

Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the LORD Most High is awesome,
a great King over all the earth.**

He sits on His holy throne.

God has gone up with a shout,

the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

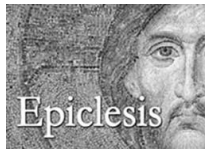
Sing praises to God; sing His praises!

We sing praises to our King! We will shout His praises!

For majestic on high is the LORD!

– from Psalms 47 and 93





Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King;
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior, reigns,
The God of truth and love.
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King!

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King! The Lord is King!

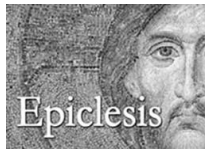
Setting and chorus: Ellen Koehler ©2010. Original text: Charles Wesley, 1744.
Original hymn tune: DARWALL'S 148th, John Darwall, 1770.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing;
New* songs throughout the world shall ring.
Christ*, by a road* be*fore untrod*
Ascen* deth* to the throne of God.



O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All* praise to Thee let earth accord.
Who* art, while end*less* ages run*,
With Father and* with* Spirit One.

O grant us thitherward to tend,
And* with unwearied hearts ascend,
Un*to Thy king*dom's* throne, where Thou*
As is our faith*, art* seated now.

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735), *Hymnum canamus Domino*; translated from Latin to English by Benjamin Webb, 1854. Hymn tune: JAM LUCIS ORTO SIDERE, 15th cent. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ:

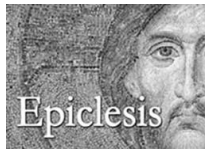
He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we would be holy and blameless before Him;
*In love, He predestined us to adoption as His children,
in accordance with His pleasure and His will;*
In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our sins, according to His grace;
*He has made known to us the mystery of His will,
to bring all things in heaven and on earth into unity in Christ;*

Having believed in Him,
we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
the guarantee of our inheritance in Him,
to the praise of His glory.

*In the exceeding greatness of His power,
He raised Christ from the dead
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all principality and power and might and dominion,
and above every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come.*

**He has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

– from Ephesians 1:3-23



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

God demonstrated His own love for us in this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

*Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

– Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16

Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from death to life, and have seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places that He might fill all things. Yet, we confess that we have not always bowed before Him, and have not always acknowledged His rule. We have not always followed His leading, and have failed to glorify Him in our lives.

[Silence]

Forgive us, we pray. In Your grace, raise us from sin that we may walk faithfully in Your ways and delight in Your will, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

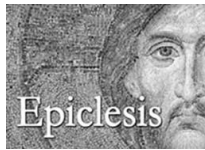
Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks;
We praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks;
We praise You for Your glory,
Almighty God and Father. Amen.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010. Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis
("Glory to God in the highest")



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of our pardon in His grace:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us,
even when we were dead in our sins and transgressions, made us
alive together with Christ – By grace we have been saved –

**And He raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the
heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He
might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward
us in Christ Jesus.**

– Ephesians 2:4-7

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

In the Beauty of Holiness

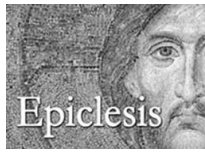
In the beauty of holiness
We see You, Son of righteousness,
So we bring all that we possess
To lay at Your feet.
In the place where Your glory shines,
Jesus, lover of all mankind,
You have drawn us with love divine
To make us complete.

Chorus

So I pause at Your gates once more,
As my heart and my spirit soar,
And I wish I could love You more:
My God and my King!

Is there tribute that I could bring,
Was there ever a song to sing,
That could ever express, my King,
The work that You've done?
Could I ever conceive of this,
All the depths and the heights and breadth,
Of the riches I now possess because of Your love?





THE WORD

Acts 1:1-11

Luke 24:44-53

Matthew 28:16-20



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!

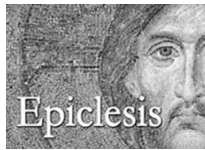
Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,
Your name is holy, our Father.
Your kingdom come, and Your will be done,
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials; save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom, we sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours – Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

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The King In All His Beauty

O, lift your eyes to Heaven, see
The Holy One eternal.
Behold the Lord of Majesty
Exalted in His temple.
As symphonies of angels' praise
Now strain to sound His glory,
Come worship, fall before His grace:
The King in all His beauty.

Chorus

How worthy, how worthy; how worthy: the King in all His beauty.

Now see the King who wears a crown,
One made of shame and splinters,
The sacrifice for ruined man,
The substitute for sinners.
As Earth is stained with royal blood
And quakes with love and fury,
He breathes His last and bows His head:
The King in all His beauty.

Now see the Savior lifted up: the Lamb who reigns in splendor,
The hope of every tribe and tongue, His kingdom is forever.
Bring praise and honor to His courts; bring wisdom, power, blessing;
For endless ages we'll adore the King in all His beauty.

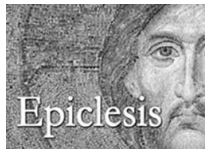
CCLI Song #7124322 ©2015 Getty Music Hymns and Songs, Getty Music Publishing, Love Your Enemies Publishing, Messenger Hymns. Matthew Boswell, Matthew Papa.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Rejoice, the Lord Is King (verse 4)

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King! The Lord is King!



Benediction:

Jesus Christ, this man who is God, participated in our humanity to die for us and to be resurrected for us. And He now has ascended to the very throne of God to continually represent us to the Father.

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

We have a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

And who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

He who did everything that ever needed to be done to save us now continually stands before the Father interceding for us!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Adapted from Hebrews 7 and 8, and Robert Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004)

A thought about worship – “The early church fathers saw the ascension of the Lord as the lifting up of the human nature of Jesus to the throne of God. The eternal Word was united to a perfect human nature in Jesus. Because Jesus participated in our human nature (without sin) and because through faith we are united with Jesus, our human but redeemed nature, united with Jesus, is lifted to the very throne of God. Leo the Great, an early church father, puts this profound truth this way: ‘For on this day not only have we been confirmed in our possession of paradise, but we have entered heaven in the person of Christ; through his ineffable grace we have regained far more than we had lost through the devil’s hatred.’” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 159.)

Image credits. p. 1. Rembrandt, *The Ascension of Christ*, 1636.; p. 6: James Tissot, *The Ascension*, c. 1890 (Wikimedia Commons).

Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39, 20:19-23

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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