



A thought about worship...

“[Jesus] demonstrated what life looks like for a human being who is in full communion with God. Yet he came to do more than show us this life. He came to be that very life, to lift humanity into his own humanity and do for us what we are unable to do for ourselves.... Nailed to the cross of his own creation, he took into his own body and into his divine being the suffering and alienation of all humanity, reconciling God to humanity and humanity to God. ... On the hard wood of the cross he stretched forth his hands of love in a saving embrace of all.” (Robert E. Webber, *Who Gets to Narrate the World? Contending for the Christian Story in an Age of Rivals* [Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008], 33).

The somber tones of Lent and Holy Week give way to jubilant “Alleluias!” and signal the triumphant arrival of **Easter**, the glorious resurrection day of our Lord. In the church year, Easter is a fifty day period of seven Sundays, beginning with Easter Day. Ascension Day, which marks that profoundly important moment when Christ ascended into heaven, comes forty days after Easter and is celebrated to affirm that Christ is Lord of all times and places.



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 2, 2010 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

Praise Him in the heights!

Praise Him, all His angels;

Praise Him, all His hosts!

Praise Him, sun and moon;

Praise Him, all stars of light!

Praise Him, highest heavens,

And the waters that are above the heavens!

Praise the Lord from the earth,

Let all that is in the earth praise His name!

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

For He commanded and they were created.

Let us praise the name of the Lord:

For His name alone is exalted;

His glory is above earth and heaven!

– from Psalm 148

He is Exalted

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,

I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted,

And I will praise His name!

He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

CCLI Song #17827. ©1985 Straightway Music | Mountain Spring Music. Twila Paris.



SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Chorus

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

Chorus

CCLI song #26997; ©1966 F.E.L. Publications; Words and Music by Peter Scholtes

Now may the grace of God, which renews us daily,
And the love of God, which enables us to love,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us into one
Body,
Continually be with us
As we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

—based on 2 Corinthians 13:14



Reader:
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the
first earth had passed away.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the
tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell with them, and
they shall be His people."
And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things
new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life
without cost."

— from Revelation 21:1-6

INVOCATION

Spontaneous prayers of welcome and praise
Testimonies of the Lord's faithfulness

PROFESSION OF FAITH

People:
For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal
life.

God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He
loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made
us alive together with Christ (by grace we have been saved),
And 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 surpassing riches
of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Leader:
O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love
endures forever.



THE TABLE

Blessing – Remembering – Taking – Reflecting

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 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.

Ubi Caritas

Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

(Where there is charity and love, there God is.)

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Revelation Song (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.

CCLI Song No. 4447960; ©2004 Gateway Create Publishing; Jennie Lee Riddle



O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward
To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

Traditional. Text: Samuel Trevor Francis. Tune: Thomas J. Williams (Hymn tune: Ebenezer);
Setting Ellen Koehler ©2008



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Most 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. 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. 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 ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

Text: Matheson/Music: Peace (Tune: St. Margaret)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Text: Matheson/Music: Peace (Tune: St. Margaret)



TIME OF OFFERING

Prayer

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Verse:

Jesus, lover of my soul,
All consuming fire is in Your gaze.
Jesus, I want You to know
I will follow You all my days.
For no one else in history is like You;
And history itself belongs to You.
Alpha and Omega, You have loved me,
And I will share eternity with You.

Chorus:

It's all about You, Jesus;
And all this is for You,
For Your glory and Your fame.
It's not about me,
As if You should do things my way.
You alone are God,
And I surrender to Your ways.

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THE WORD

John 13:31-35

Love for One Another. John 13:35, Mark Lawrence,
2009

