



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

March 8, 2015 (Third Sunday in Lent)

## GATHERING

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and their expanse proclaims His handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech; night to night reveals knowledge.**

*They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.*

**Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;

**The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.**

*The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;*

**The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.**

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.

**The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.**

*They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;*

*sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.*

**By them Your servant is warned;**

**in keeping them there is great reward.**

Make Your face shine on Your servants, and teach us Your ways.

**Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.**

**I have inclined my heart to keep your decrees forever,**

**even to the end.**

— from Psalms 19:1-11 and 119:111-112, 135



Ten Commandments, Arthur Dove, 1912



*Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him*

Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore Him;  
Praise Him, angels in the height.  
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;  
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.  
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;  
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.  
Laws which never shall be broken  
For their guidance He hath made.

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious; never shall His promise fail.  
God hath made His saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation; hosts on high, His power proclaim.  
Heaven and earth and all creation, laud and magnify His Name.

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,  
Lord, we offer unto Thee.  
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,  
In glad homage bend the knee.  
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;  
We would bow before Thy throne.  
As Thine angels serve before Thee,  
So on earth Thy will be done.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012. Text: Thomas Coram (vs. 1 and 2); Edward Osler (vs. 3). Hymn  
tune: HOLY MANNA. (William Moore, *The Columbian Harmony*, 1825)

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore.

Public domain. Text: Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4<sup>th</sup> century; transl. by John M. Neale and Henry  
W. Baker. Music: Plainsong, 13<sup>th</sup> century. Arr: C. Winifred Douglas



*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Holy God, we praise Thy name;  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in Heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Thou art King of glory, Christ: Son of God, yet born of Mary;  
For us sinners sacrificed, and to death a tributary.  
First to break the bars of death,  
Thou has opened Heaven to faith.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2012. Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; transl. Clarence A. Walworth. Hymn tune: TE DEUM

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not  
know Him, God was pleased, through the foolishness of what was  
preached, to save those who believe.*

**We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and  
foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called,  
both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom  
of God.**

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

*God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;*

*God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;*

God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not,  
to reduce to nothing things that are,

*So that no one might boast in the presence of God.*

**He is the source of our life in Christ Jesus, who became for us  
wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness and sanctification  
and redemption, – in order that, as it is written, “Let the one  
who boasts, boast in the Lord.”**

– from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

But who can discern their own errors?

**Cleanse me from hidden faults.**

**Keep Your servants from willful sins;**

**Do not let them rule over me.**

**Then I will be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.**

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be pleasing to You, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.

– based on Psalm 19:12-14

[Silent confessions]

**Christ, forgive me for all the sins**

**I have committed against you,**

**and all the times I provoked your anger**

**by offering sacrifices to dead idols.**

**Have pity on me and save me.**

**Deliver me from the judgment to come.**

**Be merciful to me,**

**as you were merciful to the penitent thief.**

**Receive me, like those who have turned to you,**

**as you have turned to them.**

**I have entered your vineyard at the eleventh hour;**

**deliver me from judgment.**

**Let your death, which was for the sake of sinners,**

**restore me to life again in the day of your coming.**

– a prayer of Sharbil of Edessa,  
an early Syriac martyr, c. 112

### *The Jesus Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's covenant promise to His people:

"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall all know Me, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sins no more."

– Jeremiah 31:33-34

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

### *Oh God of Mine*

Oh God of mine, I'll have no idols;  
Oh God of mine, come lead the way;  
Oh God of mine, I'm greatly humbled,  
This sinner's heart, You came to save.

Oh God of mine, through storm and trial;  
Oh God of mine, through death and grave;  
Oh God of mine, in resurrection.  
Your scars display my soul's refrain.

Oh God of mine, Who holds all nations;  
Oh God of mine, Who saves the day;  
Oh God of mine, Your grace sufficient,  
Your tender mercies new by morn.

Oh God of mine, forever faithful;  
Oh God of mine, forever stay;  
Oh God of mine, forever after,  
These eyes upon Your face will gaze. (Repeat twice)

Oh God of mine, I'll have no idols;  
Oh God of mine, come lead the way;  
Oh God of mine, I'm greatly humbled,  
This sinner's heart, You came to save. (Repeat twice)

Rita Springer. ©2004 Kindred Joy Music



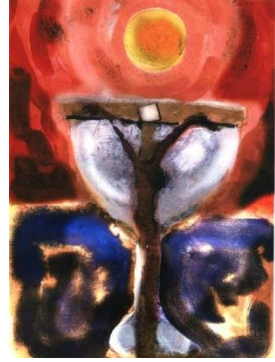
## THE WORD

Exodus 20:1-17

John 2:13-22

## THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ



Eucharist, Bonnell, Contemp.

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.**

### *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)

### *Lord, Have Mercy*

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken,  
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim.  
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom;  
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

#### *Chorus:*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on me.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.



*Verse 2:*

I have built an altar where I've worshipped things of man;  
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You.  
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing;  
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again.

*Chorus*

*Verse 3:*

I have longed to know You, and all Your tender mercies,  
Like a river of forgiveness, ever flowing without end.  
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence,  
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night.

*Chorus*

CCLI Song #2989578 ©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Steve Merkel.  
CCLI License #3097801

*I Will Bow to You*

Lord, I will bow to You, to no other God but You alone.  
Lord, I will worship You, nothing hands have made, but You alone.

I will lay down my idols, thrones I have made,  
All that has taken my heart.  
Lord, I will bow to You, to no other God but You alone.

CCLI Song #3262139 ©2001 Integrity's Praise! Music; Pete Episcopo.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

*Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him (reprise)*

Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto Thee.  
Young and old, Thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee.  
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;  
We would bow before Thy throne.  
As Thine angels serve before Thee, so on earth Thy will be done.



**Benediction:**

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, loving and serving the Lord, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent, walking in Christ's own footsteps and taking on His likeness.

And whether the Spirit asks you to put something off, or take something on, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus – as we, His covenant people, follow Him on the way to the cross.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers...* – “There are some who, like worms wallowing in marshes and mud, feed on foolish and useless pleasures. People are like pigs. For pigs, it is said, like mud better than pure water. Let us not, then, be enslaved or become like pigs. Instead, as true children of the light, let us raise our eyes and look at light, lest the Lord discover us to be superficial. Therefore, let us repent and move from ignorance to knowledge, from foolishness to wisdom, from self-indulgence to self-restraint, from unrighteousness to righteousness, from godlessness to God. By striving toward God, one shows noble daring. The enjoyment of many good things is within the reach of those who love righteousness and who pursue eternal life, especially those things which God alludes to in Isaiah. He says, "There is an inheritance for those who serve the Lord." Noble and desirable is this inheritance, not gold, not silver, not clothing, that the moths destroy, nor things of earth that robbers attack because they are dazzled by worldly wealth. Instead, it is the treasure of salvation which we must hurry to by becoming lovers of the Word. Then praiseworthy works will descend to us and fly with us on the wing of truth. This is the inheritance God grants us with His eternal covenant, conveying the everlasting gift of grace. Consequently, our loving Father—the true Father— never stops urging, admonishing, training, or loving us.”  
– Clement of Alexandria

\*Prayer of Sharbil of Edessa is quoted in Duane W.H. Arnold, ed., *Prayers of the Martyrs* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), p. 65.

**Lectionary for next week:** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;  
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113  
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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