

Liturgy

The Third Sunday of Easter
Year B

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The grave is empty!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God has glorified His servant Jesus!
**He is the Holy and Righteous One,
the Author of life,
whom God has raised from the dead.
To this we are witnesses.**

Let us praise Him forever for what He has done:

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
He lifts up those who are bowed down;
He loves the righteous.**

How blessed are those who seek the LORD and His strength,
who seek His presence continually.

**For You make them most blessed forever;
You make them glad with the joy of Your presence.**

Come, let us worship the risen Lord!

— based on Acts 3:13-16, Psalms 146, 105, 21

Haven't You Heard?

Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?
Mary was there at crack of the dawn.
Weeping, she found Him down in the garden;
Laughter is living and grieving is gone.

Chorus:

Our hearts are glowing,
Our eyes are showing that Jesus lives!

Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?
Cleopas told us. Evening drew on.
Walking and talking, traveling with them,
Jesus was present: now grieving is gone.

Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?
Peter was fishing. Out of the dawn
Jesus called, "Shoot your net to the starboard" –
Fishing is thriving and grieving is gone.

Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?
Haven't you heard that Jesus goes on?
Haven't you heard that Jesus is with us?
Laughter is living and grieving is gone!

Scotland; Alison M. Robertson
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*LECTIONARY for the third Sunday of
Easter, Year B*

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

In the liturgical year, the season traditionally known as Eastertide is a distinct period of fifty days, beginning with Resurrection Sunday and culminating on the Day of Pentecost. During Eastertide, the Church focuses on the ongoing meaning and significance of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection for the redemption of all of God's creation.

The third Sunday of Easter is traditionally devoted to the theme of worship—in particular, worship of the risen Christ. Today we see this theme threaded throughout the lectionary, especially in the triumph of life over death, and hope over despair. These expressions—of praise for the healing of a man born lame, of the gladness in our hearts when we God's goodness displayed, of the peace that comes with the presence of Christ—have an especially powerful conclusion in the promise found in 1 John 3: When Christ is revealed we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He is.

How ought this glorious promise affect the way we see, and the way we live, now?

The lovely Haven't You Heard? is available at hymnary.org. This joyful Easter hymn is found in the wonderful hymnal, Common Ground, published by Saint Andrew Press.

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name,
In earth, and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy;
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
Blessèd Trinity!

Public domain. Words: Reginald Heber, 1826;
Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

Immortal Invisible (Your Great Name We Praise)

Chorus

Most holy, most glorious,
The Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious,
Your great Name we praise!

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise;
In light inaccessible
Hid from our eyes.
Most holy, most glorious,
The Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious,
Your great Name we praise!

All life comes from You, Lord,
To both great and small;
In all life You live, Lord, t
The true Life of all.
We blossom and flourish
But quickly grow frail;
We wither and perish,
But You never fail.

Chorus

Great Father of Glory,
Pure Father of Light;
Your angels adore You,
All veiling their sight.
All praise we will render,
Oh Father of Grace;
Till one day in splendor
We see face to face. (*Chorus*)

Chorus

CCLI Song #4088941 © 2001 Sovereign Grace Praise;
Bob Kauflin | Walter Chalmers Smith

Holy, Holy, Holy *is sung in the key of C. Ending on the C chord with G in the bass (C/G) provides a nice transition to the chorus of Your Great Name We Praise.*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches
of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

This is the hope of His calling,
the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
and the surpassing greatness of His power
toward us who believe:

*He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world,
that we should 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 the riches of His grace
which He lavished upon us.*

He has made known to us the mystery of His will,
that in the fullness of the times,
He might gather together in one all things in Christ,
things in the heavens and things on the earth.

*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined according to His purpose,
who works all things after the counsel of His will,
to the end that we should be to the praise of His glory.*

**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.
To Him be glory forever!**

– from Romans 11:33, 36 and Ephesians 1:3-14, 18

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Behold what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called the children of God;
and that is what we are.

*Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we will be has not yet been revealed.*

What we know is this:
when He is revealed, we will be like Him,
for we shall see Him as He is.

*And all who have this hope in Him purify themselves,
just as He is pure.*

– from 1 John 3:1-3

[Silence]

Righteous God, for our sake You made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin, for our redemption. He became what we are so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

[Silence]

Yet we confess that often we ignore our sin. Too often we do not confess. We keep silent about the sin that clings to us. But our sins are too great a burden for us. Forgive us. In Christ take away our iniquity, and grant that we may serve You in newness of life to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Blest Are the Pure in Heart

Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs;
Their soul is Christ's abode.

Lord, we Thy presence seek;
May this our blessing be:
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee.

Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee.

Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836). Music: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God demonstrates His own love for us in this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8

God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world through Him might be saved.

– John 3:17

Beloved, this is His promise:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:5-9

Amen. Thanks be to God.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

The prayer of confession is taken from Reformed Worship, a quarterly journal of resources for planning and leading worship. CRC Publications, #34, December 1994. (Resources are declared to be in the public domain.) URL: <http://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1994/genuine-sorrowwholehearted-joy-why-when-and-how-confession>

Music for Blest Are the Pure in Heart is available in the Music Catalog as a lead sheet and scored for keyboard (on request). This simple hymn, with the newly-composed melody, has four verses. We sing two verses, 1 and 4, here.

Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/blest-are-pure-heart>

Ellen's setting of Be Thou My Vision is available in the Music Catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet, and scored for piano and/or keyboard (on request). We sing the first four verses here, at Offering, and the final verse at Sending.

Be sure to read the commentary on this hymn in the Music Room for instrumental suggestions, interesting historical background and suggestions for other usages in worship services.

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/be-thou-my-vision>

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for my fight,
Thou my whole armor, and Thou my true might.
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower.
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance now and always.
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2009 Ellen Koehler, All Rights Reserved.
Ancient Irish Hymn (SLANE); Trans. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

THE WORD

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

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)

Eric Wyse's setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available at Score Exchange (<http://www.scoreexchange.com/scores/19379.html>)

Jesus Is Lord

“Jesus is Lord,”
The cry that echoes through creation;
Resplendent pow’r,
Eternal Word, our Rock.
The Son of God, the King,
Whose glory fills the heavens,
Yet bids us come
To taste this living bread.

Jesus is Lord,
Whose voice sustains the stars and planets;
Yet, in His wisdom,
Laid aside His crown.
Jesus, the man
Who washed our feet, who bore our suffering,
Became a curse
To bring salvation’s plan.

Jesus is Lord,
The tomb is gloriously empty!
Not even death
Could crush this King of love!
The price is paid, the chains are loosed,
And we’re forgiven,
And we can run
Into the arms of God.

“Jesus is Lord,”
A shout of joy, a cry of anguish,
As He returns,
And ev’ry knee bows low.
Then ev’ry eye
And ev’ry heart will see His glory;
The Judge of all
Will take His children home.

CCLI Song #3992447 ©2003 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Be Thou My Vision (verse 5)

High King of heaven,
Thou heaven’s bright sun;
Grant me its joys
E’er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart,
Whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

Heart of my own heart,
Whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

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Ancient Irish Hymn (SLANE); Trans. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

Benediction:

Almighty God,
whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ
is the light of the world:
Grant that Your people,
illuminated by Your word and Table,
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory.

Amen.

And as we go forth,
walking out our baptisms—
and looking forward to the day
when we see Him as He is—
may He grant that what has been said with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and that what we believe in our hearts
we may practice in our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“I boldly affirm that He who is above every name has many names in relation to us. And I receive them according to His various ways of dealing graciously with us. He is called the Light when He disperses the gloom of ignorance. He is the Life when He gives us the blessing of eternal life. He is called the Way when He guides us from error to the truth. Also He is called a ‘Tower of strength,’ a ‘City of encompassing,’ a Fountain, a Rock, a Vine, a Physician, and the Resurrection. All such terms refer to the various righteous blessings He gave to us. But those who set their sights on things beyond human understanding, who see the incomprehensible, but overlook what is comprehensible, use such titles to explain God. They are not only positive that they see Him, but measure Him whom no one has seen or can see. . . . And it seems fitting to warn young archers not to shoot at an impossible target while faith is available to them. We must warn them to drop their useless efforts to understand the incomprehensible, and not to lose the blessings at hand, which are found by faith alone.”

– Gregory of Nyssa

Lectionary for next week: Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

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URL: <https://www.clerestorynotes.com>

Today's benediction is a variation of the collect for the second Sunday after the Epiphany from the Book of Common Prayer. As we are sent forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, we are reminded of the promise we have returned to in various places in our worship today, that "when He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (1 John 3:2)