

Liturgy

The Fifth Sunday of Easter Year C

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

The Messiah is Lord over all creation, the Savior of the world!

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights!

Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His host!

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars!

Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for He commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; He fixed their bounds,

which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, all creatures and all nature!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted;

His glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His faithful.

Praise the LORD!

— from Psalm 148

Creation Sings the Father's Song

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day,
Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow;
His breath upon this spinning globe;
He charts the eagle's flight,
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing:
"Hallelujah!" Fill the earth with songs of worship,
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon His face;
The ageless One in time's embrace,
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally.

Creation longs for His return,
When Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky,
All heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme:
The glory of our God and King!

LECTIONARY for the fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

This fifth Sunday of Eastertide brings us to the midpoint of the fifty-day liturgical period that begins with Resurrection Sunday and culminates on the Day of Pentecost. This day in the Christian year is traditionally focused on the church's ministry—both the ministry of the Church externally, and our ministry within the Church, one to another. In the season of Eastertide, we study and reflect on the meaning and ongoing significance of Christ's Resurrection, both for individual members of His Body and for all of His creation. In Year C, our attention is particularly focused on our response to the joyful truth of the Resurrection as we seek to give witness to that truth, moment by moment, with our words, deeds, and lives.

Today's lectionary invites us to contemplate creation in light of the Resurrection. What do we learn of God's goodness and power when we contemplate the response of creation as depicted in Psalm 148 to His character and attributes? In what ways should our own responses be informed and inspired by this picture of praise? How does God use lessons from His creation to teach Peter and develop his walk and witness? What does the passage in Revelation 21 tell us of God's love and ultimate redemptive plans for His creation? Finally, in light of God's plans for redemption and reconciliation of all things in His perfect time, how ought we to think of and minister to one another? The well-known and well-loved passage from John 13 tells us, in Jesus' words: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

INVOCATION

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

O ye heights of heav'n, adore* Him;
Angel hosts, His prais*es sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before* Him
And extol our God* and King;
Let no tongue on earth be si*lent;
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore*.

Christ, to Thee with God the Fa*ther,
And, O Holy Ghost*, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiv*ing,
And unwearied prais*es be:
Honor, glory, and domin*ion
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore*. A*men.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2015 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century;
transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker.
Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11th century

PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the message of life as preached by the apostle Peter.
Let us together affirm his testimony:

God shows no partiality:
**But in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right
is accepted by Him.**

*This is the message God sent,
announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ,
who is Lord of all.*

**God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed
by the devil, for God was with Him.**

And yet they put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree.

**But God raised Him to life on the third day
and revealed Him to those who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.**

*He is the One ordained by God
as Judge of the living and the dead.*

**Of Him all the prophets bear witness
that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins
through His name.**

—based on Acts 10:34-43

Music for this setting of the ancient hymn, Of the Father's Love Begotten, is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and as a sung response or doxology with melody line, chord chart and scored keyboard or organ part.

For the ease of congregational singing, asterisks indicate syllables that are sung with more than one melodic note. Here we use two of the four verses as a sung prayer response and doxology. See the commentary on this hymn, which is most often sung during Advent and Christmas, for suggestions for use throughout the year.

Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/fathers-love-begotten>

You may also hear a live recording of Of the Father's Love Begotten in the Audio Media Studio.

Link:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/fathers-love-begotten-clip

The Profession of Faith is taken from the exhortation Peter preached to those in the house of Cornelius (Acts 10). These are the words Peter references in today's reading from Acts (11:1-18), when he testified to the apostles and other believers in Jerusalem of the events in Caesarea. When Peter arrived from Joppa, Cornelius reported "how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'"

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The word of the LORD:

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

[Silence]

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.**

[Silent confessions]

We confess that we have sinned:

**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.**

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

The promises of God's pardon: They are trustworthy and true:

“Behold, I am making all things new.

To the thirsty, I will give water
as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ...
I will be their God, and they shall be My children.”

— from Revelation 21:5-7

“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

In Christ, we who once were far off

**have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
And He has made both Jews and Gentiles into one new humanity,
reconciling them in Him.
For He Himself is our peace.**

— from Ephesians 2:13-16

This simple, traditional prayer of confession and repentance is from The Book of Common Prayer, Morning Prayer, rite two. A useful and user-friendly resource is The (Online) Book of Common Prayer [www.bcponline.org].

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of blessing and praise

Glory Be To God

To You we bring our hymn of praise: Glory be to God.
Hearts and hands together raised: Glory be to God.
Who spoke before the dawn of time: Glory be to God.
Veil of darkness torn by light: Glory be to God.

And with unceasing voice all heaven sings: "Glory be to God!"
Th'anthem of the Lord's redeemed: "Glory be to God!"

You purchased captives for Your saints: Glory be to God.
And opened wide the kingdom gates: Glory be to God.
You overcame the sting of death: Glory be to God.
And clothed us in Christ's righteousness: Glory be to God.

And all Your children cry with loud acclaim: "Glory be to God!"
Sing, O Church, Your sweet refrain: "Glory be to God!"

Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.
(repeat)

Father, Spirit, risen Son: Glory be to God.
Who was, and is, and is to come: Glory be to God.

And with unceasing voice all heaven sings: "Glory be to God!"
Th'anthem of the Lord's redeemed: "Glory be to God!"

And all Your children cry with loud acclaim: "Glory be to God!"
Sing, O Church, Your sweet refrain: "Glory be to God!"

Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.
Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.
Forever and ever. Forever and ever.

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Matt Maher, Kelly Minter, Stuart Townend.

THE WORD

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

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, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory, now and forever,
Amen, amen, amen.

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More Like Jesus

You came to the world You created,
Trading Your crown for a cross.
You willingly died,
Your innocent life paid the cost.

Counting Your status as nothing,
The King of all kings came to serve;
Washing my feet,
Covering me with Your love.

Chorus:

If more of You means less of me, take everything.
Yes, all of You, is all I need; take everything.

You are my life and my treasure,
The One that I can't live without.
Here at Your feet, my desires and dreams I lay down.
Here at Your feet, my desires and dreams I lay down.

Bridge:

O, Lord, change me like only You can.
Here with my heart in Your hands,
Father, I pray: Make me more like Jesus.
This world is dying to know who You are.
You've shown us the way to Your heart.
So, Father, I pray: Make me more like Jesus.

CCLI Song #7105732 ©SHOUT! Music Publishing | sixsteps Music |
worshiptogether.com songs. Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood,
Kristian Stanfill, Brett Younker.

Music for The Lord's Prayer is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also available in the music collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1.
Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer>

You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio.
Link:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Creation Sings the Father's Song (chorus)

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing:
"Hallelujah!" Fill the earth with songs of worship,
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

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Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

Benediction:

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.
Because He has triumphed over death,
and Christ the Messiah is Lord over all creation,
Savior to the entire world, you also live.

Alleluia! Amen!

Since we have been raised with Christ, let us now go forth as His witnesses,
loving and serving Him in the joy and victorious power of His resurrection.

Alleluia! Amen!

Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – bless you now and forever,
as you go forth into the world to love and serve the risen Christ.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

"All things originate from one God. Since created things are various and numerous, they are well fitted and adapted to the whole creation. However, when viewed individually, they are mutually opposite and inharmonious like the sound of the lyre, which consists of many and opposite notes but gives rise to one unbroken melody through the intervals that separate each one from the others. The lover of truth, therefore, should not be deceived by the interval between the notes or imagine that one was due to one artist and author and another to someone else. He should not think that one person fitted the treble, another the bass, and yet another the tenor strings. But he should hold that one person formed the whole, so as to prove the soundness, goodness, and skill exhibited in the whole work. Those, too, who listen to the melody ought to praise and exalt the artist, to admire the tension of some notes, to attend to the softness of others, to catch the sound of others between both these extremes, and to consider the special character of others. Then they can inquire at what each one aims and what is the cause of the variety, never failing to apply our rule, neither giving up the one artist, nor casting off faith in the one God who formed all things, nor blaspheming our Creator."

– Irenaeus

Lectionary for next week: Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:19, 22-22:5
John 5:1-9; 14:23-29

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