

Liturgy
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Year A

GATHERING

Call to Worship:

“The God who made the world and everything in it,
He who is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not live in shrines made by human hands,
nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything,
since He himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
. . . Indeed, He is not far from each one of us,
for ‘in Him we live and move and have our being.’”

– Acts 17:24-25, 28a

Let the Peoples Praise

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Only One, only One worthy (3x)
Worthy is the Lamb.

Glory to the Righteous One (3x)
From the ends of the earth we hear songs.
(Hallelujah! The Lamb has won).

CCLI Song #4797431
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Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;
Sing the glory of His name!
Make His praise glorious.
Say to God:

**How awesome are Your works!
All the earth will worship You,
and will sing praises to Your name.**

Come and see the works of God,
who is awesome in His deeds
toward the children of men.

**He has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.
We have been tested and tried.
He has refined us as silver is refined,
and He has brought us out into a place of abundance.**

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of His praise be heard!

– from Psalm 66

*LECTIONARY for the sixth Sunday of
Easter, Year A:*

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

On this sixth Sunday of Eastertide, we are nearing the end of the fifty-day liturgical period that begins with Resurrection Sunday and culminates on the Day of Pentecost. In this season, we, the Church, focus on the ongoing meaning and significance of Christ’s sacrifice and resurrection for the redemption of all of God’s creation. In Year A, the lectionary invites us into a guided journey in which we consider several amazing and remarkable encounters and interactions with Christ.

The traditional theme of the sixth Eastertide week is the immanent role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church— both in the lives of individual members and in the Church universal as the Body of Christ.

This Sunday’s main focus is on the early verses of the long section of John’s gospel (chapters 14-16) known as “Jesus’ Farewell Discourse.” This passage includes Jesus’ comforting teaching and promises about the sending of the Holy Spirit and about the community of the Father, Son, and Spirit—a community in which we are wondrously invited to partake as God’s children. In a complementary passage to this wondrous promised encounter with the third Person of the Trinity, the Acts reading takes us to Paul’s discourse on Mars Hill in Athens, where he reminds us that ‘in Him we live and move and have our being,’

The Gathering song and readings focus our Eastertide attention on the awesome and powerful works of God, who alone is worthy of praise and glory, and on the victory of the Lamb.

Sung:

Glory to the Righteous One,
Glory to the Righteous One,
Glory to the Righteous One:
From the ends of the earth we hear songs.

Come. Thou Almighty King

Come, Thou Almighty King;
Help us Thy name to sing.
Help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious;
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word;
Gird on Thy mighty sword.
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter;
Thy sacred witness bear.
In this glad hour:
Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013. All Rights Reserved.
Text: Author unknown. Hymn tune: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1769.

INVOCATION

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

Doxology (Come, Thou Almighty King)

To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be.
Hence evermore:
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see;
And to eternity
Love and adore.

This section of Let the Peoples Praise flows naturally as a response to the Psalm reading ("Let the sound of His praise be heard!") and into the sung prayer of declaration and faith, Come, Thou Almighty King.

This classic hymn is most often sung on Trinity Sunday, but it fits well and underscores today's emphasis on the community of the triune God.

(The author of the hymn text is unknown. It is sometimes attributed to Charles Wesley, but he never claimed the work as his own.)

Ellen's setting of Come, Thou Almighty King is available by request as a lead sheet and scored for organ, keyboard, or piano. You may email us for details at:

clerestorynotes@gmail.com

The doxological fourth verse of Come, Thou Almighty King closes a time of corporate prayer.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible;**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
*God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.*

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

*He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried.*

**The third day he rose again,
according to the Scriptures.**

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
*He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.*

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.**

He proceeds from the Father,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*

**We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come.**

Amen.

– Nicene Creed

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

**If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the LORD would not have listened.**

But truly God has listened;

He has given heed to the words of our prayer.

**Blessed be God, because He has not rejected our prayers
or removed His steadfast love from us.**

– from Psalm 66:16-20

[Silence]

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Nicene Creed was originally drafted and adopted by the First Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. to affirm the essential, eternal divinity of Christ. Theologians use the term homoousios to describe and explain the “consubstantial” nature of the Father and the Son: the Greek word means of the same being or essence. The creed was amended by the First Council of Constantinople in 381 to include, mainly, additions and clarifications about the divinity and work of the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. This is the statement of faith we now know as the Nicene Creed, and which declares the essential tenets of the doctrine of the Trinity.

This antiphonal rendering of the Nicene Creed is written for two readers or groups within the congregation, designated by the lines printed in regular and italic font, and the whole congregation (designated by bold font).

The call to Confession comes from the Psalm of today’s lectionary.

This traditional prayer of confession, sometimes called the “Collect for Purity,” dates back at least as far as the mid-sixteenth-century Book of Common Prayer. Its origin is traced back to the eleventh-century Leofric Missal (liturgical book) in England.

Purify My Heart

Purify my heart,
Touch me with Your cleansing fire;
Take me to the cross,
Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe Your life in me,
Kindle a love
That flows from Your throne.
Oh, purify my heart,
Purify my heart.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus promised:
“If you love Me,
you will keep My commandments.
“*And I will ask the Father,
and He will give you another Advocate,
that He may be with you forever.*”
“This is the Spirit of truth,
who abides with you and will be in you.
He will teach you all things,
and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
“*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*”
– from John 14:15-17; 26-27

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

My Lips Will Praise You

My lips will praise You,
For You are holy.
My voice will ever rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You,
For You are lovely,
And You have called me
To become Your own.

I am Your own,
And I will worship You alone.
I am Your own; I am Your child.
I am Your own,
And I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own, and I will love You.

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THE WORD

John 14:15-21

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

This song of Confession echoes the words of Psalm 66 used in the Gathering reading: “He has refined us as silver is refined,” and reminds us of Christ’s action and words to His disciples on the evening of His resurrection recorded in John 20: “He breathed on them and said to them. ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (See Easter 2A)

This beautiful song resonates with Jesus’ words in John 14: “I will not leave you as orphans. ... On [the day the Spirit of Truth comes to you] you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ... And those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley. Music: John Zundel, Hymn tune: BEECHER
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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

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

This classic hymn reflects many of the spoken and sung parts of this worship service.

Ellen's setting is available as a lead sheet on request. Email us at: clerestorynotes@gmail.com

The Life of the Body is a time of sharing, announcements, any additional presented material, introduction of guests, etc. Followed by a closing song that reflects the themes of the worship service and a benediction, we—the people of God—are sent forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, giving witness to what we have seen and heard in our encounter with the risen Christ.

May the Peace

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within His love.

Chorus

And to Him be praise for His glorious reign,
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain:
Christ eternal, the King of kings!

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of His communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

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Benediction

Beloved, the glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of Jesus Christ,
overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Now, may the grace of Christ, which daily renews us,
and the love of God, which enables us to love as He has loved us,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body,
compel us to go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord -
giving witness to what we have seen and believed,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(text based in part on 2 Corinthians 13:13)

A thought about worship from the ancient Fathers –

“It is no wonder that Jesus is named after many good things in the Gospel. If we look at the names by which the Son of God is called, we will understand how many of these good things He is. The feet of those who preach His name are beautiful. One good thing is life. Jesus is the Life. Another good thing is the light of the world (when it is true light that enlightens people). And the Son of God is said to be all these things. Another good thing, in addition to life and light, is the truth. A fourth is the way that leads to truth. Our Savior teaches us that He is all these things. He says: ‘I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.’ Ah, isn't it good that the Lord shook off earth and mortality to rise again? And we have obtained this benefit from the Lord: that He is the Resurrection. He says, ‘I am the Resurrection.’ The door through which one enters into the greatest joy is also good. And Christ says, ‘I am the door.’ . . . We must not neglect mentioning the Word, who is God after the Father of all. For this another good, no less than the others. Happy, then, are those who accept these goods and receive them from those who announce their blessings, those whose feet are beautiful.”
– Origen

Lectionary for next week: Acts 1:1-11; Psalms 47 and 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

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