

*Liturgy*

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the eternal God,  
the source of love and life,  
who creates and sustains us.

**Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.**

**How blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD!**

All creation declares the goodness of our God.

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with Him is great power to redeem.

**I waited patiently for the LORD;**

**He inclined to me, and heard my cry.**

**He brought me up out of the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry clay.**

**He set my feet upon a rock,**

**making my footsteps firm.**

**And He put a new song in my mouth:**

**Praise to our God!**

**Many will see and fear,**

**and will trust in the LORD.**

Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;  
let those who love Your salvation say continually:  
“The LORD be magnified!”

— from Psalms 124:8, 130:7, 40:1-3, 16

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Praise to the Lord,  
The Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him,  
For He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear,  
Now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,  
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings,  
Yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
How all thy longings have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,  
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy  
Here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Words: Joachim Neander, 1680;  
transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863. Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

*LECTIONARY for the second Sunday  
after the Epiphany, Year A:*

*Isaiah 49:1-7*

*Psalm 40*

*1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

*John 1:29-42*

*During the season of Epiphany, the third season of the liturgical year, the Church focuses on the revelation of Christ to the world. Having spent the four weeks of Advent in eager anticipation of Christ's coming, and the twelve days of Christmastide celebrating the wonder and importance of His birth, we now turn our attention to the Person and Work of Jesus in His incarnation here on earth. And we look, with renewed thanksgiving and amazement, at His deeds and the revelation of God's heart for the world He created.*

*While the word epiphany literally means “manifestation,” or “appearing,” in our everyday lives we most often think of an epiphany as an “aha moment”—an insight into something beyond the ordinary, and always with momentous meaning and significance for our lives. On this second Sunday after the day of Epiphany, the Old Testament texts point to Christ as our Strength, Rock, Redeemer, Rescuer, Help—the Light and Savior of the world. The reading from Paul's first epistle to the Corinthian church reminds us that God has called us to be saints, along with all those who across time and space have called on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that together we grow and are strengthened in the fellowship and blessings of knowing Him. And John's gospel narrative retells John the Baptist's testimony of the revelation of Jesus at His baptism as the anointed Lamb of God, the mighty Son of God, and He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And then, we read Jesus gracious and amazing invitation to those who would soon be His disciples: “Come and see.”*

*Ellen's setting of Praise to the Lord, the Almighty is available in the music*

## INVOCATION

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

Sung:

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration.

*Bow Down*

Bow down before the Lord;  
Worship Him, O worship Him.  
Bow down before our God;  
Enter in, O enter in.  
Consuming fire and sweet perfume,  
His awesome presence fills this room.  
This is holy ground, so come and bow down.

CCLI Song #1222013 ©1993 Integrity's Hosanna!  
Music. David Baroni, Tony Sutherland. CCLI License #3097801

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church at all times and in all places  
in the words of this ancient creed:

**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.**

*catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and scored for keyboard (suitable for piano or organ, also). Please see the commentary on this hymn setting for reflections on the text, performance suggestions, and creative ideas for using the hymn verses throughout a worship service.*

*Here's the link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/praise-lord-almighty>

*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 fonts, and the whole congregation (designated by bold font).*

*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.*

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

How blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
who do not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after false gods.

*O LORD my God,*

*You have multiplied Your wondrous deeds  
and Your thoughts toward us;  
none can compare with You.*

*Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
they would be more than can be counted.*

**Sacrifice and offering You do not desire,  
but You have given me an open ear.  
I delight to do Your will, O my God;  
Your law is within my heart.  
Do not withhold Your mercy from me, O Lord;  
let Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness  
continually preserve me.**

– from Psalm 40:4-8, 11

[Silence]

Most merciful God,  
**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 truly delight in Your will,  
and walk in Your ways,  
to the glory of Your Name.  
Amen.**

## *Agnus Dei*

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.  
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.  
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace.  
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

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*The call to Confession is from the text of the psalm for today. Notice how the declaration of God's covenant love and mercy opens our hearts to trust and repentance.*

*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].*

*This setting of Agnus Dei is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You may hear Agnus Dei in the Audio Media Studio.*

*Here are the links:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei>

[https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music\\_library/agnus-dei-clip](https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/agnus-dei-clip)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the word of the Lord, the promise of forgiveness,  
from the pen of the psalmist:

The LORD is your Help and Deliverer

He does not withhold His mercies and compassion,  
but is pleased to save. His covenant love and truth  
will continually preserve you.

*He forgives all your iniquity;*

*He heals all your diseases;*

*He redeems your life from the pit;*

*He crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;*

*He satisfies you with good as long as you live,*

*so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Let all who seek Him rejoice and be glad in Him;

Let all who love His salvation say continually,

**“The LORD be magnified!”**

– from Psalms 40:11, 13, 16; 103:3-5

## *Passing of the Peace*

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

### *Jesus, Be Near to Me*

Jesus, be near to me; let me know You are here.

How I need You, how I need You to reveal Yourself to me.

Jesus, unveil Your pow'r; Lord, let me sense Your love.

How I need You, how I need You to reveal Yourself to me.

### *Chorus*

Through the thunderous storm,

Or the still of the morning;

Through Your unchanging truth,

Through the breath of Your Spirit;

In my questions and pain,

Whisper words of Your love, always the same.

### *Bridge*

Be near, be near to me;

Reveal, reveal Yourself to me.

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## THE WORD

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

*The Assurance of Pardon returns us to Psalm 40, the psalm we are tracing through today's liturgy. Weaving in verses from Psalm 103 echoes the Gathering reading, "He brought me up out of the pit of destruction."*

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* (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 us 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**

*The Solid Rock*

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Chorus:*

On Christ the solid Rock I stand;

All other ground is sinking sand.

All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010. Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Text: Edward Mote, c. 1834; Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1863.

*Ellen's setting of The Solid Rock is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet. It is also available in the music collection, Hymn Settings for Worship, Volume 1: Singing the Whole Story of God.*

*Here's a link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/solid-rock>

SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)*

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again;  
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

Benediction:

Beloved, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,  
walking out our baptisms in faithfulness and joy,  
let us keep these words ever before us and in our hearts:

God is faithful! By Him  
you were called into the fellowship of His Son, J  
esus Christ our Lord.

He will also strengthen you to the end,  
so that you may be blameless, and lacking nothing,  
on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

– based on 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“We say, 'Thy will be done, as in heaven so in earth' not so that God will do what He wills, but that we may be able to do what God wills. For who resists God and prevents Him from doing what He wills? But since the devil hinders us from always obeying God's will with our thoughts and actions, we pray and ask that God's will may be done in us. . . . Now, if the Son was obedient to do His Father's will, the servant should be much more obedient to his Master's will! . . . This is the will of God which Christ both did and taught: humility in conversation; steadfastness in faith; modesty in words; justice in deeds; mercy in works; discipline in morals; inability to do a wrong, and ability to bear a wrong done; to keep peace with the brethren; to love God with all our hearts; to love Him as a Father; to fear Him as God; to prefer nothing above Christ (because He did not prefer anything above us); to adhere inseparably to His love; and to stand by His cross bravely and faithfully. When there is any battle against His name and honor, it is His will that we exhibit the consistency of confession; in torture, the confidence with which we do battle; in death, the patience with which we are crowned. This is to do the commandment of God. This is to fulfill the will of the Father.”

– Cyprian

**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

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