

Liturgy

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Leader:

We are gathered to worship the LORD,
the God of all creation, maker of heaven and earth.

**You spoke, and by Your Word brought all things into being.
You spoke, and Your Word came to dwell among us,
full of grace and truth.**

O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thoughts from afar.

**You search out my path and my lying down;
You are familiar with all my ways.**

*Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, You know it completely.
You have hedged me in – behind and before –
and lay Your hand upon me.*

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is too high, I cannot attain it.**

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are Your works!

My soul knows it very well.

My frame was not hidden from You,
when I was made in secret,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

*Your eyes saw my unformed substance,
and in Your book were written all the days
that were ordained for me,
when as yet there were none of them.*

How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

If I should count them,

they would outnumber the grains of the sand.

When I am awake, I am still with You.

– Psalm 139:1-6, 14-18

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

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

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 lectionary invites us to ponder the close and all-pervasive presence of God in our lives, the ways in which He calls us into relationship with Him, and the responsibilities that are ours because, in love, He has called us. In the much-loved Psalm 139, we are reminded of the blessing and wonder of His intimate knowledge and closeness to us. The parallel narratives of the calling of Samuel and Nathanael reveal the gentle, persistent and individual ways God invites each one of us to join His story and take part in His purposes for the world. And Paul's epistle reading reminds us of the serious and holy nature of God's call.

The gathering antiphonal reading is written for a leader (pastor, cantor, etc.) and two readers or groups, with the entire congregation reading the bold font.

All Around Me

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea,
Even there Your hand will lead and guide;
You're all around me.

Chorus:
And I'm surrounded
Everywhere I go;
Your presence covers me.
And Your constant love
Makes me know:
You're all around me.

Where can I go that I won't find you there?
If I try to hide you know just where I'd be.
You sustain me with Your faithfulness,
You're all around me.

Chorus

Bridge: (4 times)
All around, all around, all around You're...
All around, all around, all around You're...
All around, all around, all around me.

Chorus

Bridge: (3 times)

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INVOCATION

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

Holy, Holy

Holy, holy;
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Holy, holy;
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Who was and is, and is to come,
Who was and is, and is to come –

Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

CCLI Song #1540719. ©1995 Thankyou Music.
Nathan Fellingham

This song is one of our favorites, but any song or hymn related to Psalm 139 would work well.

This song of invocation and praise reflects the theme of being attentive to God's voice: How often do we hear His voice when His name is lifted up and He is praised and glorified?

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We give thanks with joy to the Father,
who has qualified us to share in the inheritance
of the saints in the light.

**For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

**In Him all things in the heavens and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities –
all things were created through Him and for Him.**

He is before all things,
and in Him all things hold together.

**For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him God was pleased
to reconcile all things to Himself,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of His cross.**

God has made known to us the riches of the glory of this mystery:

Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Thanks be to God!

– from Colossians 1:12-28

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my thoughts.

*See if there be any hurtful way in me;
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

– Psalm 139:23, 24

[Silent confessions]

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.**

[Silence]

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.

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul He doth Himself impart;
And for His cradle and His throne, chooseth the pure in heart.

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

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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).

Music for Blest Are the Pure in Heart is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet. This simple hymn, with the newly-composed melody, has four verses. For our song of confession, we have used all four verses here. The third verse is particularly fitting for the Season of Light, and the first couplet (blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God) echoes Jesus' encounter with Nathanael in an interesting and enlightening way.

Please see the commentary on this hymn setting in the Music Room (sheet music catalog) for explanatory notes and performance suggestions:

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The words of Jesus, great blessings of pardon:

“I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.

*Those who love me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”*

“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.”

– John 14:20-21, 15:10-11

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Speak the Word

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;
The eternal, infallible word.
Speak the truth to me; let it set me free.

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;
The eternal, divine, holy word.
Let it calm my soul, shape and make me whole –
Speak the word.

Chorus:

I will hide it in my heart,
Cherish every part;
Let it heal, renew;
Cleanse me through and through.
I will make it my delight,
Living by its light.
My faith, I know, will rise
In these words so rich and wise.
Speak the word.

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;
The eternal, infallible word.
Let its power rise to dispel all lies.

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;
The eternal, divine, holy word.
Let it light my path, as each promise stands –
Speak the word.

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“Song of the Week,” www.tommywalkerministries.org/sotwfreecharts/speak-the-word
(accessed January 13, 2021)
CCLI Song #7057124 (lyrics)

THE WORD

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

*This wonderful, worshipful prayer,
resonates meaningfully with the lec-
tions from 1 Samuel and John 1.*

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

Open My Eyes That I May See

Open my eyes that I may see

Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me

Place in my hands the wonderful key

That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,

Ready, my God, Thy will to see;

Open my eyes, illumine me,

Spirit divine.

Open my ears that I may hear

Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;

And while the wave-notes fall on my ear,

Everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee,

Ready, my God, Thy will to see;

Open my ears, illumine me,

Spirit divine.

Open my mouth and let me bear

Gladly the warm truth everywhere;

Open my heart, and let me prepare

Love with Thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for Thee,

Ready, my God, Thy will to see;

Open my heart, illumine me,

Spirit divine.

Text and tune: Clara H. Scott, 1895.

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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Holy, Holy (reprise)

Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

CCLI Song #1540719. ©1995 Thankyou Music. Nathan Fellingham

Benediction:

Beloved, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
walking out our baptisms in trust and faithfulness,
may our ears and hearts be ever attentive,
attuned, and responsive to His voice.

Amen!

And now, Almighty God,
whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table,
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory,
that He may be known, worshiped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Consider the ignorant person who is feeling his disgrace. Either driven by someone's encouragement or moved by a desire to imitate other wise men, he hands himself over to someone he is sure will carefully train and competently instruct him. Then if he who had hardened himself in ignorance should faithfully surrender himself to a master and promise to obey him in everything, the master, seeing his determination, would promise to take away all ignorance and to fill his mind with knowledge. The master will not attempt this if the student refuses or resists his efforts, but only if he sacrifices and binds himself to complete obedience. In the same way, the Word of God promises to take away the stony heart of those who draw near to Him. God will not do this for those who don't listen to His word, but only for those who receive His commands.”

– Origen

Lectionary for next week: Jonah 3:1-5, 10;
Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31;
Mark 1:14-20

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