

Liturgy

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.
*Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.*
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard.
*Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.*
In the heavens He has set a tent for the sun:
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
*And its circuit is to the end of them.
And nothing is hid from its heat.*

– from Psalm 19:1-6

Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever!
**O may Your glorious name be blessed
And exalted above all blessing and praise!
You alone are the LORD.
You have made the heavens,
the heaven of heavens with all their host;
The earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them.
You give life to all of them,
and the heavenly host bows down before You.**

– Nehemiah 9:5b-6

O, Worship the King

O, worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
Oh, girded with praise.

O, tell of His might and sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is the path on the wings of the storm.
O, sing of His grace.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
O, worship the King; worship the King.

*LECTIONARY for the third Sunday
after the Epiphany, Year C:*

*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21*

On this third Sunday of the season of Epiphany, we continue our focus and reflection on the Person, work, and glorious acts of Jesus in His incarnation here on earth. As we walk through this season, we are alert to those “a-ha moments” when God manifests His glory and/or reveals something to us of His purposes for us and the world. We are expecting and watching for “epiphanies.”

In today’s readings, the lectionary invites us to ponder the power and blessing of the written and spoken word of God—to us individually, to the community of believers, and to the world He created. In Psalm 19 we read of the majesty of the Lord displayed and revealed in creation, and are reminded that His laws are perfect, His precepts are right ... His words are precious and a source of great joy. In Nehemiah, we read of the celebration and rejoicing of the returned exiles at their literal rediscovery of the written Scriptures. And in Luke’s gospel, we find the remarkable scene where Jesus went to the Synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath (“as was His custom”), chose a passage from the book of Isaiah, and revealed something astonishing about Himself. He read the words of one of the messianic prophecies telling of the Messiah’s ministry of preaching and healing, and then declared: “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

When we read or hear the word of the Lord, what is our response—and what ought to be our response—to His revelation of Himself and the truths woven throughout His story? How does our response to the word of God enable us to walk more fully in the light of the glory of Christ, who is the Light of the world?

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.
Redeemer and Friend, He's our Redeemer and Friend,
O, worship the King.
Redeemer and Friend, He's our Redeemer and Friend,
O, worship the King. Worship the King.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2004 Ellen Koehler. Words: Robert Grant, in *Christian Psalmody*, 1833;
adapted from William Kethe, the Genevan *Psalter*, 1561.
Hymn tune: LYONS, attributed to Johann M. Hadyn.

INVOCATION

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

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in Heaven above adore Thee;
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim Thee;
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright Ellen Koehler ©2012 All Rights Reserved.
Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; transl. Clarence A. Walworth. Hymn tune: TE DEUM

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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; to Him be glory forever.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,
restoring the soul;
*The testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple.*
The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
*The commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes.*
The fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
*The judgments of the LORD are true;
they are righteous altogether.*
They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
*Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

**Your testimonies are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
I have inclined my heart to keep your statutes forever,
even to the end.**

– Rom. 11: 33, 36; Psalm 19:7-11, 119:111-112

Music for Ellen's arrangement of O, Worship the King is available by request as a lead sheet and scored for three-part vocals. You may write us at clerestorynotes@gmail.com for information on how to order.

Music for Ellen's setting of Holy God, We Praise Thy Name is available in the Hymn Settings section of the music catalog as a lead sheet. (It is also available as vocal line with piano accompaniment and as a choral arrangement by request.) This hymn is one whose verses may be chosen and used as doxologies in a variety of contexts or, as below, sung as a prayer of confession.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-god-we-praise-thy-name>

Psalm 19 is woven through this liturgy in several places. The first 6 verses are read antiphonally at the Gathering (above), verses 7-11 are woven together here with other texts as the Profession of Faith, and verses 12-14 are read as the call to Confession (just below).

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

But who can discern their own errors?

Cleanse me from hidden faults.

Keep Your servants from willful sins;

Let them not rule over me.

**Then I will be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

[Silent confessions]

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to You, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

– based on Psalm 19:12-14

Wonderful Words of Life

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.
Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life.
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven.

Refrain

Sweetly echo the Gospel call, wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life.
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify us forever.

Refrain

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Words and hymn tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1874.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's own word, handed down by faithful hands through the ages,
is trustworthy and true. Listen to what these words of life say
about our assurance of pardon:

How blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who walk in His ways,
*How blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD.*
How blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
who seek Him with all their heart!

– Psalm 128:1. 119:1-2

*Music for Wonderful Words of Life is
available in the music catalog (Hymn
Settings) as a lead sheet.*

Find it here:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/wonderful-words-life>

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.

Chorus

Words and music by Tommy Walker. ©2016 McKinney Music, Inc. Used by permission.
“Song of the Week,” www.tommywalker.net/sotwfreecharts/speak-the-word
(accessed January 21, 2022)

THE WORD

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

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)

Spirit of the Sovereign Lord

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon you.
Because He has anointed you to preach good news.
(repeat)

He has sent you to the poor,
To bind up the broken hearted;
To bring freedom to the captives,
And to release the ones in darkness.

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon us.
Because He has anointed us to preach good news.
(repeat)

He will comfort all who mourn; (This is the year.)
He will provide for those who grieve. (This is the day.)
He will pour out the oil of gladness; (This is the year.)
Instead of mourning we will praise.

CCLI Song #1025959 ©1994 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Andy Park.

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

CCLI Song #23488 ©1935/1963 Birdwing Music. Daniel Iverson.

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>)

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord smile on you, shine His light upon you.
May the Lord lift you, turn His face towards you,
Give you His peace, give you His peace.

May the Lord bless us and keep us.
May the Lord smile on us, shine His light upon us.
May the Lord lift us, turn His face towards us,
Give us His peace, give us His peace.

Blessed we came to this place today,
And blessed now, we will go.
In the name of the Father, the Spirit, and the Son.
(repeat)

Go now in peace; go now in peace.

CCLI Song #7000703 ©2013 Atlas Mountain Songs | Said and Done Music | sixsteps Music | Thankyou Music
| worshiptogether.com songs. Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin

Benediction:

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.

Amen.

And as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
May He be so manifest in us that our lives are light to all those around us:
to the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“To search the Scriptures is an excellent and profitable work for souls. Just as a tree is planted by streams of waters, the soul watered by divine Scripture is enriched and gives fruit (that is, righteous belief) in its season. It is adorned with evergreen branches—actions pleasing to God. Through the Holy Scriptures, we are trained to think rightly and to act in a manner pleasing to God. For in these words we are encouraged toward every virtue and dissuaded from every evil. ... All who ask receive, those who seek find, and to those who knock it shall be opened. Therefore, let us knock at the beautiful garden of Scripture. It is fragrant, sweet, and blooming with various sounds of spiritual and divinely inspired birds. They sing all around our ears, capture our hearts, comfort the mourners, pacify the angry and fill us with everlasting joy. Scripture sets our mind on the gold, gleaming, brilliant back of the divine dove. Its bright wings rise to the Only-begotten Son who is the Heir of the spiritual vineyard's Farmer. The divine dove brings us through Him to the Father of Lights.”

– John of Damascus

Lectioary for next week: Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

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

The closing words of prayer and blessing are adapted as a benediction from the traditional prayer for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany (the Book of Common Prayer). A useful and user-friendly resource is The (Online) Book of Common Prayer [www.bcponline.org].