

*Liturgy*

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains,  
the world, and all who dwell in it.

**He has established His faithfulness in the heavens!**

**I will sing of the LORD's great covenant love forever.**

The heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD;  
Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.

**For who in the heavens or on earth can be compared to the LORD?**

**Righteousness and justice are the foundations of His throne.**

**Lovingkindness and truth are before His face.**

Blessed are those who know the joyful sound!

They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your presence.

**In Your name we rejoice all day long,  
and celebrate Your righteousness,  
for You are our glory and strength.**

The LORD has shown forth His glory.  
Come, let us joyfully lift His praises.

– from Psalm 24 and 89

*All People That On Earth Do Dwell*

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise;  
Approach with joy His courts unto;  
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

*Bridge:*

Sing to the Lord, exalt His name;  
O, make His praise glorious.  
Pour forth His praise, His anthem raise;  
Rejoice in Him forever.

For why? the Lord our God is good;  
His mercy is forever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

*Bridge*

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
The God whom heaven and earth adore,  
From men and from the angel host  
Be praise and glory evermore.

Setting and bridge: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler All Rights Reserved.  
Words from *Fourscore and Seven Psalms of David* (Geneva, 1561), attributed to  
William Kethe. Hymn tune (verses): OLD 100TH, attributed to Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

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

*Micah 6:1-8*

*Psalm 15*

*1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

*Matthew 5:1-12*

*Throughout the season of Epiphany, the Church studies and reflects on the revelation of Christ to the world by attending closely to the Person and Work of Jesus in His incarnation here on earth. Remembering that the word epiphany means “revelation,” or “manifestation,” we look with renewed thanksgiving and amazement at His deeds and the way He revealed God’s heart for the world He created.*

*On this fourth Sunday after Epiphany, the lectionary invites us to see Christ revealed as the Wisdom of God, and to consider what that truth means for us as we live out our daily lives as His disciples in the world. In his first epistle to the Corinthians, Paul writes that “Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God,” and discusses the distinctions between true, Godly wisdom in contrast with what the world views as wisdom. (We use this text as our Profession of Faith, below.) In the passages in Micah and Psalm 24, we read of God’s expectations that we walk in holiness before Him and with each other. And this week, we begin a 3-week set of readings in Christ’s first public sermon, the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5), with a close reading of the Beatitudes, which are often seen as the heart of Christ’s teaching on wise and Godly living.*

*Music for Ellen’s setting of All People That On Earth Do Dwell is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet, scored for voice and piano accompaniment, and arranged for instruments (woodwind quintet and string orchestra; other instrumentation on request).*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/all-people-earth-do-dwell>

*You may hear several variations of All People That On Earth Do Dwell in the Audio Media Studio.*

[https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music\\_library/all-people-earth-do-dwell-clip](https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/all-people-earth-do-dwell-clip)

## INVOCATION

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

### *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.

Holy, holy, holy Lord of hosts;  
Saints and angels give You glory  
Now and forevermore.

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

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside."

*For since, in the wisdom of God,  
the world through its wisdom did not know Him,  
God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached  
to save those who believe.*

**We proclaim Christ crucified,  
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,  
but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks,  
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

*God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;  
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;*

God chose what is low and despised in the world,  
things that are not,  
to reduce to nothing things that are,  
so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

**He is the source of our life in Christ Jesus,  
who became for us wisdom from God –  
that is, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption –  
in order that, as it is written,  
"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."**

– from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*The Profession of Faith is taken from today's epistle reading. It is written for two readers or groups within the congregation, designated by the lines printed in regular and italic font, with the whole congregation reading the text in bold.*

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old,  
with sacrifices for my transgressions and the sin of my soul?

*God has told you what is good.*

*And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

– from Micah 6:6-8

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,  
and who may stand in His holy place?  
Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
whose walk is blameless, who do what is righteous.

[Silence]

*Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.*

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,  
and who may stand in His holy place?  
*Those who speak the truth from their hearts,  
Who do no wrong to a neighbor.*

[Silence]

*Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.*

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,  
and who may stand in His holy place?  
Those who honor those who fear the LORD.

[Silence]

*Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.*

*They shall receive a blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of their salvation;  
they will never be shaken.*

This is the generation of those who seek Him,  
of those who seek Your face, O God.

– from Psalms 15 and 24

## *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.

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

Music: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836).

*The call and prayer of confession are taken from the Micah and psalm readings for today, with some phrases from the complementary Psalm 24 woven in.*

*This beautiful hymn of confession and devotion begins with one of the Beatitudes, the Gospel lection for today. Blest Are the Pure in Heart is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet, and scored for keyboard (on request).*

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

*An additional resource, a setting in chant style of The Beatitudes, is available in the music catalog (Liturgical and Psalm Settings section).*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/beatitudes>

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, beloved, to this wonderful assurance of pardon;  
God's own words, handed down by faithful hands through the ages,  
trustworthy and true:

*Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.*

*Blessed are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

– from Psalm 32:1-2

**The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us.  
He will bless those who fear the LORD,  
the small together with the great.**

– Psalm 115:12-13

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

### *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*

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Words and hymn tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1874.

## THE WORD

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31;

Matthew 5:1-12

*Music for Ellen's setting of Wonderful Words of Life is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet. It is available scored for piano accompaniment on request. (You may email us at: [clerestorynotes@gmail.com](mailto:clerestorynotes@gmail.com))*

*Here's a link to the commentary in the Music Room:*

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

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

*Passing of the Peace*

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**

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,

Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.

Streams of mercy, never ceasing,

Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

Sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,

Mount of God's redeeming love.

Hitherto Thy love has blest me,

Thou hast brought me to this place.

And I know Thy hand will bring me

Safely home by Thy good grace.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

He to rescue me from danger bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.

Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2003 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1757.

Hymn tune: NETTLETON; traditional American melody,

John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

*Music for Ellen's setting of Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for three-part vocal harmony ("vocals").*

*Here's a link:*

<https://clearestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/come-thou-fount-every-blessing>

SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*Benediction*

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.

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:**

Now, may our almighty and everlasting God,  
who governs all things both in heaven and on earth  
by His covenant love and faithfulness,  
mercifully grant that we would go forth from this place,  
poor in spirit and in meekness, but rich in faith and blessings,  
as we live in these truths:

His Kingdom is ours in the present,  
and a new heaven and earth is our inheritance in the future,  
through His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever.

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

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“If some students can't learn through more difficult subjects, a kind, caring teacher will come on to their level and teach them by simpler means. Christ, the Word of God, did this. Paul said, ‘For seeing that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the word preached to save them that believe.’ Christ saw that people wouldn't think about God. Instead, with downcast eyes, they sought the knowledge of God in nature and in the sensory world. They imagined that mortal humans and demons were their gods. Therefore, the loving Savior of all, the Word of God, took on a body and walked among people like a human being. He met the mental capacity of all people halfway. That is to say, those who think God is physical can see the truth and recognize the Father through the Lord's physical works. Therefore, the people were drawn to Christ through whatever objects they fixed their minds on and learned the truth from all angles.” – Athanasius

**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 112  
1 Corinthians 2:1-16  
Matthew 5:13-20

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

*The closing words of prayer and blessing are adapted as a benediction from the traditional Collect for the fourth Sunday of Epiphany (Book of Common Prayer).*