

Liturgy

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Gloria Patri

Cantor:

Lord, open our lips, and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

All:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever,
Forever. Amen, amen, amen.

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Holy and Awesome Is He (Psalm 111)

Refrain (sung):

Praise the Lord! I will thank Him with my whole heart.
Bless His Name! I will delight in His great works.
Honor and majesty, righteous forever;
Holy and awesome is He!

Praise the LORD!

**I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Great are the works of the LORD;

they are studied by all who delight in them.

*Full of honor and majesty is His work,
and His righteousness endures forever.*

He has gained renown by His wonderful deeds;

the LORD is gracious and merciful;

He is ever mindful of His covenant.

Refrain

*The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy.*

They are established forever and ever,

to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to His people;

He has commanded His covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is His name.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

Refrain

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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

This season of Epiphany, more than any of the other seasons of the church year, is often characterized as the Season of Light. Remember that the word epiphany means “revelation” or “revealing.” As we focus our reflection and study on the Person and Work of Jesus in His earthly ministry, we no doubt also remember that Christ is the Light of the world, He who came to reveal God’s heart for the world He created.

The lectionary this week invites us to consider the power and majesty of the words and works of the Lord. For He is holy and awesome, the source of all mercy, and wisdom, and redemption. Through Christ are all things and we exist through Him (1 Cor 8:6). It is an amazing thought that “anyone who loves God is known by Him”!

The passage in Mark’s gospel must fill us with awe: It reveals not only Christ’s power, wisdom and authority; it highlights His compassion. And with those gathered in the Capernaum synagogue that Sabbath day, we respond with amazement, and wonder about the nature of freedom, truth, sovereignty ... and fame.

Ellen’s setting of the “lesser doxology,” Gloria Patri, is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano accompaniment.

Here’s the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/gloria-patri>

You may hear Gloria Patri in the Audio Media Studio:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/audio-media-studio-clips-index>

Holy and Awesome Is He was written as a musical responsorial refrain setting of Psalm 111, though it works very nicely with other psalms as well. This setting is available in the music catalog (Psalm Settings) as a lead

INVOCATION

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

I Do Worship

I do worship, I do worship.
I do worship You.
(Repeat)

For Your goodness and Your glory
For the joy inside the story.
I do worship You.
(Repeat)

O, how excellent is Your presence.
We will bless Your name.
(Repeat)

For Your goodness and Your glory;
For the joy inside the story.
For the peace You gave to me,
For the day You set me, set me free:
For Your goodness and Your glory
For the joy inside the story.

I do worship, I do worship.
I do worship You.
(Repeat)

Words and music: John P. Kee. ©1997 Universal Music//Z Songs/Tyscot Songs.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the hope of the gospel,
which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven,
the mystery which has now been manifested to us, His saints:

**Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

In Him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through Him and for Him.

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

*He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that He may have first place in everything.*

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell;
and He has made us complete in Him,

who is the head of all rule and authority, principality and power.

**For us there is one God, the Father,
from whom are all things
and for whom we exist;**

**And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom are all things
and through whom we exist.**

**For from Him, and through Him,
and to Him are all things.**

— from Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9-10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Romans 11:36

*sheet and scored for voice and piano/
keyboard accompaniment. The lead
sheet example is in the key of D. Here,
we sing it in E, and start the intro
while the final chord of Gloria Patri
(in the key of E) is still sounding.*

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-and-awesome-he>

*This wonderful declaration in song—
"I do worship!"—brings a nice varie-
ty of style into the service to close the
prayers of Invocation. (It can be
played with either a gospel or jazz
approach, and either works well.)
One reason for choosing this song is
for its emphasis on "the joy inside
[His] story" and the peace that comes
only from our freedom in Him.*

*The antiphonal weaving of Scripture
as the profession of faith underscores
Christ's power and absolute authority
over all things.*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy place,
and with the contrite and lowly of spirit,
in order to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

– Isaiah 57:15

*For though the Lord is exalted, yet He regards the lowly,
but the proud He knows from afar.*

– Psalm 130:6

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to You, our God,
and before one another, that we have sinned,
in thought, word and deed.

**We have offended Your holiness.
We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We have followed the devices of our own hearts,
and have spurned the promptings of Your Spirit.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.**

[Silence]

**Have mercy on us, Lord. Accept our repentance,
and accomplish in us the work of Your salvation,
that we may show forth Your glory in the world;
through Christ, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me, a sinner.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The promise of our God:
“These are the ones I look on with favor,” says the LORD,
“those who are humble and contrite in spirit,
and who tremble at My word.”

– Isaiah 66:2

*The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears,
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart,
and saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

– Psalm 34:17, 18

Put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is steadfast love,
and with Him is abundant redemption.
He redeems His people from all their sins.
How blessed are all those who hope in Him!

– Isaiah 30:18b

*This prayer of confession is adapted
from two entries in the Book of Com-
mon Prayer (Penitential Order I and
the traditional Ash Wednesday litany
of penitence).*

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and stories of thanksgiving and praise

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Chorus

My chains are gone; I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy rains:
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, a
A long as life endures.

Chorus

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

Hymn: public domain. Words: John Newton, 1779.
Hymn tune: NEW BRITAIN, (in *Virginia Harmony*, 1831).
Setting and chorus: CCLI Song #4768151 ©2006 sixsteps Music |
Vamos Publishing | worshiptogether.com songs. Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio.

THE WORD

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

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**

Jesus, I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my weakness, into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth;
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy throne,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold;
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Words: William Sleeper, 1887. Music: George Stebbins.
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Jesus, Lover of My Soul

It's all about You, Jesus.
And all this is for You,
For Your glory and Your fame.
It's not about me,
As if You should do things my way;
You alone are God
And I surrender to Your ways.

Jesus, lover of my soul;
All consuming fire is in Your gaze.
Jesus, I want You to know
I will follow You all my days.
For no one else in history is like You,
And history itself belongs to You;
Alpha and Omega, You have loved me,
And I will share eternity with You.

CCLI Song #1545484 ©1995 Thankyou Music;. Paul Oakley

I can imagine these verses as the expression of worship and gratitude of the man Jesus healed in Mark 1:21-28, just as we all rejoice in Jesus calling us to Him, the One who is the Light of the world.

*Another music suggestion here:
Great Are You, Lord (CCLI Song #6460220 ©2012 Integrity's Alleluia! Music | Integrity's Praise! Music | Open Hands Music | So Essential Tunes. Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan, David Leonard). "You give life, You are love, You bring light to the darkness . . ."*

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Amazing Grace (reprise)

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Hymn: public domain. Words: John Newton, 1779.
Hymn tune: NEW BRITAIN, (in *Virginia Harmony*, 1831)

Benediction:

Almighty God, as You send us on our way,
remind us continually that You have set us free
by Your amazing power and matchless grace,
that we may walk out our baptisms in trust and bold confidence
in the mighty Name of Jesus.

Amen!

And as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
grant us the liberty of that abundant life
which You have made known to us in Your Son,
our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Let the desire for glory be surpassed by the love of righteousness. When our love of glory exceeds the fearer love of God in our heart, it becomes an evil that is hostile to faith. The Lord said, ‘How can ye believe, who look for glory from one another, and do not seek the glory which is from God alone?’ . . . The holy apostles proclaimed the name of Christ where it was only discredited and neglected. . . . Even amidst curses, accusations, persecutions, and cruel treatment, they weren't deterred from preaching human salvation by the noise of human anger. As they spoke about and did godly things and lived godly lives, they conquered hard hearts and introduced them to the peace of righteousness. Then great glory followed them in the church of Christ. They didn't rest in that reward as the goal of their holiness. They referred the glory to God. For by His grace they were what they were. Therefore, they sought to kindle minds to love God. By Him these people could be made to be what the apostles were.”
– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 40:21-31;
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;
1 Corinthians 9:16-23;
Mark 1:29-39

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

We reprise our offering hymn, to send us on our way into the world to love and serve the Lord—with joy and confidence in the promises of God. This time, we sing it in the traditional 3/4 meter and, of course, with a modulation between the verses.