

Liturgy

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Praise the LORD!

How blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in His commandments.
*Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
The righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered forever.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, You are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,
You wrap Yourself with light as with a cloak,
and spread out the heavens like a curtain.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing to the Lord while I have my being.

May our meditation be pleasing to Him;
for we rejoice in the LORD.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

— from Psalms 112 and 148

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 fifth Sunday
after the Epiphany, Year A:*

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 112

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

During the season of Epiphany, the focus and reflection of the Church is on the Person, work, and glorious acts of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who dwelt among us that we might behold His glory, full of grace and truth. In this season of Light and revelation—remember that epiphany means “revelation,” “manifestation,” or “appearing”—we also remember that Christ is the Light of the world, who came to reveal God’s heart and His purposes for us and for the world He created.

This fifth Sunday after Epiphany, we focus on Christ as the sole source of our faith and the foundation of our daily lives, with particular attention to His charge to all His disciples—past, present, and future—to live as salt and light in the world, following His commandments in trust and openness.

The Gathering antiphonal reading sets the psalm for today for two readers or groups within the congregation. The whole congregation, with one heart and in one strong voice, together declares the final statement.

Ellen’s setting of Praise to the Lord, the Almighty is available in the music 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>

In this liturgy, as we often do, we sing the first three verses as the opening hymn, repeat the final two phrases of

INVOCATION

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

Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world,
You stepped out into darkness,
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus:

So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted;
Glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

CCLI Song #3266032. ©2000 Thankyou Music. Tim Hughes

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God, and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory,
Joy, and crown.

Fair is the sunshine;
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host.
Jesus shines brighter;
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior!
Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man:
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; Transl. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873.
Hymn tune: CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842.
Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

the first verse at the conclusion of the prayers of invocation, and conclude the service with the final verse sung as a strong statement of unity and joy.

This pairing of the contemporary classic, Here I Am to Worship, with the traditional hymn, Fairest Lord Jesus, focuses our worship on Christ as the Light of the world, to Whom alone is due glory and honor, praise and adoration.

Ellen's setting of Fairest Lord Jesus is available on request. You may write us at clerestorynotes@gmail.com.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Our faith rests not on human wisdom,
but on the power of God.

This is the power of God:

Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

We declare the wisdom of God,
a mystery that was hidden
and that God ordained for our glory
from before time began.

**None of the rulers of this age understood it,
for if they had,
they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

But as it is written:

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love Him” –

**These things God has revealed to us through His Spirit;
for the Spirit searches all things,
even the depths of God.**

Now we have not received the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit who is from God,
so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

**This is what we speak,
not in words taught by human wisdom
but in words taught by the Spirit,
for we have the mind of Christ.**

– from 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

[Silence]

Lord, You have called us to become Your own.
We were bought with a price, the price of Your life and blood.
We love You, and we want to live for You.

[Silent confessions]

Lord, help us to spread Your fragrance everywhere we go.

Flood my soul with Your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may be only a radiance of Yours. Shine through me, and be so in me that every person I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!

[Silence]

Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine, so to be a light to others. Let us thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around us.

Let me preach You without preaching, not by words only but by my example, by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You.

– adapted from a prayer by John Henry Newman

The Profession of Faith is drawn from the Epistle reading of today's lectionary. It is written for one reader and the congregation.

The Gospel reading is used as the Call to Confession. As an alternative, you may wish to use the Old Testament reading (Isaiah 58:1-12).

Newman's original prayer and Mother Teresa's modification of it are widely available on the web.

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph only through His power.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing, this is victory.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Kate B. Wilkinson; Hymn tune: ST. LEONARDS, Arthur Barham-Gould, 1925.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear God's covenant promises to His people:

"If they repent, I will restore them
that they may serve Me and stand before Me.

*"I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.
I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

"And they shall all know Me, for I will forgive their iniquity,
and remember their sins no more."

– from Jeremiah 15:19 and 31:33-34

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

You Are the Light

We are the people of God,
The sons and the daughters of love.
Forgiven, restored and redeemed,
We're living our lives to the praise of our King.

We are the ones who will shine
His light in the darkness of night.
The hopeless, the broken, the poor,
They will be hopeless and broken no more.

Chorus

You are the light, the light of the world,
And we shine You, Lord.
You are the light, the light of the world,
And we shine You, Lord.

Bridge

We shine like stars in the universe,
Proclaiming the hope of our God.
To the sons and daughters in all the earth,
We shine You, Lord.

To the lost and the broken, the hurting and hopeless,
We shine You, Lord.
To the ones who are weary, the burdened and the suffering,
We shine You, Lord.

CCLI Song #4939849 ©2007 sixsteps Songs | Worship Together Music. Steve Fee.

This setting of the lovely song of confession, May the Mind of Christ, My Savior, is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet.

Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/may-mind-christ-my-savior>

The Assurance texts continue the theme of our willingness and desire to live in obedience to God's ordinances, that we may be salt and light in His world.

THE WORD

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 112

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

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.**

None But Jesus

In the quiet, in the stillness
I know that You are God.
In the secret of Your presence
I know there I am restored.
When You call I won't refuse,
Each new day again I'll choose.

Chorus

There is no one else for me; none but Jesus.
Crucified to set me free,
Now I live to bring Him praise.

In the chaos, in confusion,
I know You're sovereign still;
In the moment of my weakness,
You give me grace to do Your will.
When You call I won't delay;
This my song through all my days.

Bridge

All my delight is in You, Lord;
All of my hope, all of my strength;
All my delight is in You, Lord – Forevermore.

CCLI Song #4726186; ©2005 Hillsong Publishing; Brooke Ligertwood.

Take My Life

Holiness, holiness is what I long for;
Holiness is what I need.
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

Chorus:

So take my heart and form it;
Take my mind, transform it;
Take my will, conform it
To Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

Verse 2

Faithfulness, faithfulness...

Verse 3

Righteousness, righteousness...

CCLI Song #1617154 ©1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Scott Underwood

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—
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

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 truly light and salt
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 –

“Whoever wants others to see their good works so that God, who gave them their good works, may be glorified, their light truly shines before others. . . . These people don't do good to be seen, but so that God may be revealed through them. . . . The Apostle Paul said, "Please all men in all things, as I also please all men in all things." But he didn't stop there, as if pleasing others was his goal. Otherwise he would have said wrongly, "If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Instead, he immediately added why he pleased others. "Not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." So then, he didn't please others for his own profit or fear of not serving Christ, but at the same time he did please others for their salvation's sake so that he would be a faithful servant of Christ. For him it was enough for God to know His conscience and for others to have something to imitate in him.”

– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2 or 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

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

Singing the last verse of our Gathering hymn bookends the service with a declaration of praise and joy!

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].