

Liturgy

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you
from the beginning?

*Have you not understood
from the foundations of the earth?*

It is God who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.

*It is He who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in.*

It is He who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

*Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when He blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.*

“To whom then will you compare Me, and who is My equal?”
says the Holy One.

*Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?*

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because He is great in strength, mighty in power,
not one of them is missing.

*Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?*

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

*He does not faint or grow weary;
His understanding is unsearchable.*

— Isaiah 40:21-28

Leader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power.
His understanding has no limit.

**The LORD builds up His people:
He gathers in the outcasts and wanderers;
He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds;
He feeds the hungry, frees the prisoners,
and gives sight to the blind.
He lifts up the humble and the afflicted.**

Leader: All creation declares the goodness of our God:
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is great power to redeem.
Come, let us lift up His praises!

— from Psalms 130:7 and 147:1-11

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

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11,20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

This week brings us nearly to the end of the season of Epiphany. On this fifth Sunday, we continue our reflection on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh who dwelt among us that we might behold His glory, full of grace and truth. As we do, we again focus our attention on the amazement of the disciples, and everyone else, at the inherent authority and power of Jesus. For, as Mark's gospel records, after He cast the unclean spirit out of the man in the synagogue in Capernaum, that very evening Jesus and His disciples went to the house of Simon and Andrew, where He found Simon's mother-in-law gravely ill. After Jesus healed her, the townspeople brought to Him "all who were sick or possessed with demons," and He delivered them all. In this short span of time Jesus displays His authority over all manner of human suffering and searching. For here among them walked the One by whom all things were created—things in heaven and things on the earth, visible and invisible; the Living Word, by whom all things came into being; the One whose heart has always been to build up His people, to gather, heal, provide for and deliver them; the One who came to defeat and destroy the power of the enemy, and who now reigns victorious.

The opening antiphonal reading, for two people or groups, need not be printed in the order of service. Especially when read dramatically, it is perhaps more effective when it is only heard by the congregation (but make sure the readers are on opposite sides of the room). Then the reading, which summarizes today's psalm, is spoken as a response to the declaration of God's sovereignty from Isaiah 40.

Creation Sings the Father's Song

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day,
Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow;
His breath upon this spinning globe;
He charts the eagle's flight,
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing:
"Hallelujah!" Fill the earth with
Songs of worship,
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon His face;
The ageless One in time's embrace,
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally.

Creation longs for His return,
When Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky,
All heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme:
The glory of our God and King!

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Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

INVOCATION

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

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.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man:
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.

This modern hymn echoes the praise and wonder of the Gathering antiphonal reading from Isaiah 40, and turns our attention toward themes later in the liturgy—of Christ's power and grace, and His salvific work as the second Adam, who overturned the curse and brought reconciliation and redemption to fallen humanity.

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.**

And although we were formerly alienated and hostile in mind,
engaged in evil deeds,
yet now He has reconciled us in His fleshly body through death,
in order to present us before Him holy and blameless
and beyond reproach.

**God has made known to us the riches of the glory of this mystery:
Christ in us, the hope of glory.**

– from Colossians 1:12-27

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
on those who hope in His steadfast love,
that He may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

*The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
in those who hope in His steadfast love.*

**Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
Even as we hope in You.**

– from Psalm 147:11 and 33:18-22

Everlasting and loving God,
You stooped down to raise and restore fallen humanity,
and showed us Your heart for Your world in the Word made flesh.
Yet too often we fail to live as Your redeemed followers.

[Silence]

**We confess to You and to one another, and to the whole communion of
saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned against You in thought,
word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neigh-
bors as ourselves.**

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

*This prayer of confession is adapted
from the Ash Wednesday litany of pen-
itence in the Book of Common Prayer.
A useful and user-friendly resource is
The (Online) Book of Common Prayer
[www.bcponline.org].*

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits:

*He forgives all your iniquity;
He heals all your diseases;
He redeems your life from the pit;
He crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
He satisfies you with good as long as you live,
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

**The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far He removes our transgressions from us.**

– from Psalm 103

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise:

What A Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God, the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation,
Now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is,
What a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is;
Nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,
So, Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great; Your love was greater.
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is,
What a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful Name it is;
Nothing compares to this:
What a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus.
What a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus.

Psalm 103 is not part of this week's readings, but it is a wonderful complementary text to Jesus' miraculous signs in Mark 1 and to the reading in Isaiah 40, and it is a powerful reminder that He came to address all of our human fallenness and frailty.

Death could not hold You;
The veil tore before You.
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival,
You have no equal;
Now and forever, God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom,
Yours is the glory;
Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is,
What a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is;
Nothing can stand against;
What a powerful Name it is:
The Name of Jesus.
What a powerful Name it is:
The Name of Jesus.

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THE WORD

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11,20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39
(Matthew 12:22-29)

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 Matthew text is not included in the lectionary for any of the liturgical years. I have referenced it here because on this occasion Jesus explains His power to accomplish such signs and miracles in response to the hostile assertions of the skeptical and hypocritical Pharisees.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory, now and forever,
Amen, amen, amen.

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Jesus, Name Above All Names

Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us;
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

CCLI Song #21291 ©1974 Scripture in Song/Maranatha; Naida Hearn

Blessèd Be the Name

His name above all names shall stand,
Exalted more and more,
At God's the Father's own right hand,
Where angel hosts adore.

Refrain

Blessèd be the name! Blessèd be the name!
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!
Blessèd be the name! Blessèd be the name!
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!

Redeemer, Savior, friend of man,
Once ruined by the fall,
Thou hast devised salvation's plan,
For Thou hast died for all.

His name shall be the Counselor,
The mighty Prince of Peace,
Of all earth's kingdoms Conqueror,
Whose reign shall never cease.

Words: William H. Clark; refrain by Ralph E. Hudson. Hymn tune: Ralph E Hudson, 1888.

Agnus Dei

Alleluia, alleluia, for our Lord God Almighty reigns. (repeat)
Alleluia. Holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb; worthy is the Lamb.
You are holy. Holy are You, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

CCLI Song #626713 © 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music; Michael W. Smith

Music for The Lord's Prayer is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also available in the music collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio.

Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer>

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

What A Beautiful Name

What a powerful Name it is,
What a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is;
Nothing can stand against;
What a powerful Name it is:
The Name of Jesus.
What a powerful Name it is:
The Name of Jesus.

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Benediction:

Beloved, we go forth into the world, walking out our baptisms,
to love and serve the Lord, remembering this:
Jesus Christ is victorious! He has bound the strong man,
and in His earthly ministry as the Word made flesh
He displayed His power and authority
over all the schemes and strategies of the enemy.

Thanks be to God!

Christus Victor has triumphed over all thrones, dominions,
principalities and powers. And He is able to present us
before His glorious presence without blame and with great joy.

**Now to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“If rulers don't terrify those who do good works, how will God, who is by nature good, terrify those who don't sin? Paul says, ‘If thou doest evil, be afraid,’ always using strict words with the churches after the Lord's example. Conscious of his own boldness and the hearers' weakness, he says to the Galatians, ‘Am I your enemy, because I tell you the truth?’ Healthy people don't need doctors when they are strong, but those who are sick need a doctor's skill. In the same way, we who are sick from shameful lusts, excesses, and other flames of the passions need the Savior. And He administers not only mild but also stringent medicines. The bitter roots of fear then disintegrate the sores of our sins that eat us. Therefore, fear is beneficial if bitter. Being sick, we stand in need of the Savior; wanderers, of one to guide us; blind, of one to lead us to the light; thirsty, ‘of the fountain of life, of which whosoever partakes shall no longer thirst.’ Dead, we need life; sheep, we need a shepherd; children, we need a tutor. All of humanity stands in need of Jesus so that we may not remain as obstinate sinners to the end and be condemned.”

– Clement of Alexandria

Lectionary for next week: 2 Kings 1:1-12;
Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6;
Mark 9:2-9

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