

Liturgy

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Hear O Israel

Hear, O Israel,
The people of the Lord:
Be still and know that He is God.
Love the Lord your God
With the fullness of your heart.
With all your mind, your strength and soul.

We draw near through Christ, Who saves us;
We draw near to the throne of grace.

Hear, O Israel, the people of the Lord:
Come, lift your voice and praise your King.

CCLI Song #5466115 ©2008 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

Give thanks to the LORD with a whole heart;
tell of all His wonderful works.
**We will be glad and exult in Him;
and sing praises to the name of the Most High.**
Bow down toward His holy temple in worship,
and give thanks to His name for His steadfast love and faithfulness.
**For He has exalted His name and His word above all things.
On the day I called, He answered me;
He increased the strength of my soul.**
The LORD will fulfill His purpose for us;
**He will not forsake the work of His hands;
His steadfast love endures forever.**
O give thanks to the LORD and sing of His ways,
for great is the glory of the LORD!

— from Psalm 138

Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging,
Mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
Grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
Around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail,
Helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
Hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
His pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sov'reign God.

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

Isaiah 6:1-13

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Throughout 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. As we walk through this season, we are increasingly 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.

On this fifth Sunday of Epiphany, the lectionary invites us to ponder, and rejoice in, the many and varied ways we see the glory of the Lord when we respond to His calling on our lives. Though there are certainly responsibilities and costs, along with myriad blessings, associated with our answer of “Yes!” to God’s call, we see something else in these readings: an overwhelming response of worship wells up as we become increasingly aware of His power and glory.

The Psalm for today forms the basis for the Gathering reading (for one reader and the congregation). We weave it through again, below, in the Assurance of Pardon.

Chorus

Let ev'ry creature in the sea
And ev'ry flying bird,
Let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry field
And valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
In all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word.

Chorus

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INVOCATION

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

O ye heights of heav'n, adore* Him;
Angel hosts, His prais*es sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before* Him
And extol our God* and King;
Let no tongue on earth be si*lent;
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore*. A*men.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2015 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century; transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker.
Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11th century.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the gospel, which we received, by which we were saved,
and in which we stand:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day,
and appeared to many faithful witnesses.**

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

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

All things have been created through Him and for Him.
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.*

**And God has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of His cross.

**This is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might,
which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead,
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all
principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is
named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come.**

– from 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 1:19-23

Music for this setting of the ancient hymn, Of the Father's Love Begotten, is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and as a sung response or doxology with melody line, chord chart and scored keyboard or organ part. We sing the second verse here as a doxology, to close our time of corporate prayer. For the ease of congregational singing, asterisks indicate syllables that are sung with more than one melodic note.

Here is the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/fathers-love-begotten>

You may hear a live recording of Of the Father's Love Begotten in the Audio Media Studio:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/musie_library/fathers-love-begotten-clip

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

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.**

Holy, Holy Lamb

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Holy, holy Lamb.

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,
He's worthy of all worship and praise:
Holy, holy Lamb.

Cantor (solo):

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne;
Salvation belongs to our God, and unto the Lamb.

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Holy, holy Lamb.

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,
He's worthy of all worship and praise:
Holy, holy Lamb.

CCLI Song #1197052 ©1993 Maranatha! Music. Dan Burgess.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Though the LORD is exalted, yet He regards the lowly;
But the proud He knows from afar.

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me;
You stretch forth Your hand against the anger of my foes,
And with Your right hand You save me.*

**The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me;
Your lovingkindness, O LORD, endures forever!**

Thanks be to God!

– from Psalm 138:6-8

*This prayer of confession is adapted
from two entries in the Book of Com-
mon Prayer (Penitential Order 1 and
the traditional Ash Wednesday litany
of penitence.*

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

I See the Lord

I see the Lord,
Seated on the throne, exalted;
And the train of His robe
Fills the temple with glory.
And the whole earth is filled,
And the whole earth is filled,
And the whole earth is filled with His glory.

Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy is the Lord.

CCLI Song #1406176 ©1992 Maranatha Praise, Inc; Chris Falson

THE WORD

Isaiah 6:1-13

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

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)

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>)

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for my fight,
Thou my whole armor, and Thou my true might.
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower.
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance now and always.
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2009 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Ancient Irish hymn text. Hymn tune: SLANE.
Transl. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

Holy, Holy

Holy, holy,
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Holy, holy,
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Who was and is, and is to come,
Who was and is, and is to come –

Lift up His name
With the sound of singing,
Lift up His name
In all the earth.
Lift up your voice
And give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

CCLI Song #1540719. ©1995 Thankyou Music. Nathan Fellingham

Ellen's setting of Be Thou My Vision is available in the Music Catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet, and scored for piano and/or keyboard (on request).

Be sure to read the commentary on this hymn in the Music Room for instrumental suggestions, interesting historical background and suggestions for other usages in worship services.

Here is the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/be-thou-my-vision>

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Be Thou My Vision (reprise, verse 5)

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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Ancient Irish hymn text. Hymn tune: SLANE.
Transl. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

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 –

“What is the most righteous way of worshiping God? For no one should think that God desires victims, incense, or valuable gifts. Since He doesn't experience hunger, thirst, cold, or a desire for earthly things, the things presented in temples to earthly gods aren't useful to Him. Just as physical offerings are necessary for physical beings, so spiritual sacrifices are necessary for a spiritual being. Since all the world is under God's power, He doesn't need the things He gave people to use. Since He dwells in the entire world, He doesn't need a temple. Since the eyes and mind can't comprehend Him, He doesn't need an image. Since He kindled the light of the sun and stars for our sake, He doesn't need earthly lights. So then, what does God require from us? Pure and holy worship of our minds. For those things that are made by hand or outside of people are senseless, frail, and displeasing. But true sacrifice isn't from the purse but from the heart. It is offered not by the hands, but by the mind. . . . What's the purpose of incense, clothes, silver, gold, or precious stones if the worshiper doesn't have a pure mind?”

– Lactanius

Lectionary for next week: Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

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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].