

Liturgy

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Praise the LORD!

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is in the LORD.

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

How blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God!

He made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

He keeps faith forever.

He executes justice for the oppressed,

He gives food to the hungry,
and sets the prisoners free.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind,

He lifts up those who are bowed down,

He loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the stranger,
and upholds the orphan and widow;

but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever, our God, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

— from Jeremiah 17:7, Psalm 146

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

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

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

The season of Epiphany is the last of the three short seasons that together, with Advent and Christmas, make up what's often called the Season of Light. Remember that the word epiphany literally means "manifestation," or "appearing," or "revelation." As we focus our reflection and study during this season on the Person and Work of Jesus in His earthly ministry, we no doubt also remember that Christ—the Word made flesh—is the Light of the world, He who came to reveal God's heart for the world He created.

In today's readings, the lectionary invites us to ponder Jesus' ministry as teacher and healer. Luke's narrative tells us that Jesus "came down with them," the great multitude that had come from far and wide to hear Him and to be healed of their various diseases and afflictions. Jesus—the Son of God and Son of man—came down to be with the people, as in love and power He met their needs, ministering to their spiritual and soulful as well as physical needs. As He taught about blessings and curses, those who knew the Scriptures may likely have been reminded of the admonitions and promises of Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17 to those who walk in the ways and teaching of the Lord. They may also have thought of other Scriptures, such as the writings of Moses, that teach of blessings and curses, and marveled anew at the wisdom and power of Jesus. Finally, the epistle reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church brings a wonderful encouragement and strengthening to our faith, that following the Light of the world and walking in His teachings holds for us the promise of eternal life with Him who was raised from the dead in power and glory.

INVOCATION

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

Call Upon His Name

Not to us, O God, but to Your name all glory.
We give thanks and praise to You alone, forever.

Praise Him, all the earth; all creation bows to You.
Nations stand in awe; He is the King of Glory.

To You, O Lord; You reign in heaven and on earth.
To You alone, as the earth is filled
With the knowledge of the Lord.

Call upon His name, the orphans and widows;
He'll lift you up again, and shower you with mercy.

Bless You, O my soul: robed with strength and majesty,
The Lion and the Lamb. Together, come and worship.

To You, O Lord: You reign in heaven and on earth;
To You alone, as the earth is filled with Your wonder.

To You, O Lord: You reign in heaven and on earth.
To You alone, as the earth is filled
With the knowledge of the Lord.

All to You, both now and evermore.

Come and drink again; be filled with living water.
Call upon His name; He is the King of Glory.

CCLI Song #4633884 ©2005 Wondrous Worship. Darlene Zschech,

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together affirm the testimony of the apostle Peter:

God shows no partiality:

**But in every nation anyone who fears Him
and does what is right
is accepted by Him.**

This is the message God sent,
announcing the good news of peace
through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

**This message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee
after the baptism that John announced:
that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and with power;
He went about doing good
and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with Him.**

And yet they put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree.

**But God raised Him to life on the third day
and revealed Him to those
who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with Him
after He rose from the dead.**

He is the One ordained by God
as Judge of the living and the dead.

**Of Him all the prophets bear witness
that everyone who believes in Him
receives forgiveness of sins through His name.**

—based on Acts 10:34-43

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 the link:

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

This Scripture-based Profession of Faith is chosen for its resonance with the gospel text's focus on Christ as healer and teacher. ("He went about doing good and healing ...")

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Teach us Your ways, O LORD, that we may walk in Your truth;
Give us undivided hearts, that we may fear Your name.

– Psalm 86:11

Blessed are those who do not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful.

*But their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and in His law they mediate day and night.*

They will be like trees firmly planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season;
their leaves never wither, and whatever they do prospers.

*But the wicked are not so;
they are like the chaff which the wind drives away.*

Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

*For the LORD watches over the path of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall perish.*

– Psalm 1

[Silence]

Most merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding,
and You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.

Yet too often we have strayed from Your way.

**We confess 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 neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in Your will,

and walk in Your ways,

to the glory of Your Name.

Amen.

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

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

*He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.*

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
For those who keep His covenant and His decrees.

– Psalm 25:8-10

Thanks be to God!

This simple, traditional prayer of confession and repentance is from The Book of Common Prayer, Morning Prayer, rite two. A useful and user-friendly resource is The (Online) Book of Common Prayer [www.bcponline.org].

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Sovereign Lord, Creator, Righteous One

Sovereign Lord, Creator, righteous One,
Most high and holy King;
My Redeemer, Father, dearest Friend,
My praise to You I bring.
I will praise Your name forever,
Knowing that You loved me first;
For You feed my every hunger,
And quench my every thirst.
With my heart I'll ever worship You,
My voice will sing Your praise;
For Your everlasting mercy
And grace for every day.

All creation bows in humbleness
Before Your heavenly throne;
And I shall forever thank You
For making me Your own.
You are higher than the highest,
And the God of all who live.
You are worthy of all honor
And praise that I can give.
All my life shall be a witness
Of Your majesty and grace,
And in heav'n I'll bow before You,
And see You face to face.

All my life shall be a witness
Of Your majesty and grace,
And in heav'n I'll bow before You,
And see You face to face.

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Hymn tune: THAXTED, Gustav Holst (*The Planets*),
adapted by Mary McDonald.

THE WORD

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

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, 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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Flow Like a River

Flow like a river,
Fall like the rain;
Streams of compassion
Flow from His throne.
Wide as the ocean,
Deep as the sea;
Life-giving fountain,
Is God's love for me.

Feast at the table of mercy,
Drink from the cup of His grace.
Dwell in His infinite goodness,
Live in His healing embrace.

CCLI Song # 2989523 ©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.
Steve Merkel.

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

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.

Link:

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

You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio.

Link:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip

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 grant that what has been said with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and that what we believe in our hearts
we may practice in our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
forever.
Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“To search the Scriptures is an excellent and profitable work for souls. Just as a tree is planted by streams of waters, the soul watered by divine Scripture is enriched and gives fruit (that is, righteous belief) in its season. It is adorned with evergreen branches—actions pleasing to God. Through the Holy Scriptures, we are trained to think rightly and to act in a manner pleasing to God. For in these words we are encouraged toward every virtue and dissuaded from every evil. If we love learning, we will be learned in many things. For by carefulness, hard work, and the grace of the giving God, everything is accomplished. All who ask receive, those who seek find, and to those who knock it shall be opened. Therefore, let us knock at the beautiful garden of Scripture. It is fragrant, sweet, and blooming with various sounds of spiritual and divinely inspired birds. They sing all around our ears, capture our hearts, comfort the mourners, pacify the angry and fill us with everlasting joy. Scripture sets our mind on the gold, gleaming, brilliant back of the divine dove. Its bright wings rise to the Only-begotten Son who is the Heir of the spiritual vineyard's Farmer. The divine dove brings us through Him to the Father of Lights.”

– John of Damascus

Lectionary for next week: Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38
Luke 6:27-38

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

These first words of prayer and dismissal blessing are adapted from the traditional collect for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany (the Book of Common Prayer).

This second section is taken from an ancient benediction, dating back at least to the fourth Council of Carthage (A.D. 398). In it, one of the canons decreed that cantors be blessed in this way: “See that what you sing with your lips you believe in your heart, ...” The Latin text appears over the centuries, with alterations for ordaining priests as well as blessing cantors and readers. The first English version appeared in the 1840s.