

Liturgy
The Second Sunday in Lent
Year A

GATHERING

I will lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where shall my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

*The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.*

**He will not allow your foot to slip;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

*The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.*

**The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**

*The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will protect you from all evil;
He will keep your soul.*

**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

— Psalm 121

Made Me Glad

I will bless the Lord forever;
I will trust Him at all times.
He has delivered me from all fear;
He has set my feet upon a rock.
And I will not be moved,
And I'll say of the Lord —

You are my Shield, my Strength,
My portion, Deliverer;
My Shelter, Strong Tower,
My very present Help in time of need.

Whom have I in heaven but You?
There's none I desire beside You.
And You have made me glad,
I'll say of the Lord —

You are my Shield, my Strength,
My portion, Deliverer;
My Shelter, Strong Tower,
My very present Help in time of need.

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*LECTIONARY for the second Sunday
in Lent, Year A:*

*Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17*

On the second Sunday of Lent, the Church traditionally focuses on the call to deny sin and the power of evil and darkness on our lives. As we walk with Christ in these six weeks on the way to the cross, seeking to be more and more conformed to His image and likeness, one effect of that close fellowship is a decreased attention to the desires of the self. God calls us to turn from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness, replacing our reliance on our own understanding and efforts to be righteous with a complete dependence on Christ's love, grace, and all-sufficient gift of life eternal.

Each of the readings in today's lectionary challenges us to answer God's call on our lives to walk in Christ-centeredness and in humble reliance on Him alone. We may look to the hills, or any number of directions and sources, for help, but the psalmist reminds us that our help comes from the LORD. In Genesis we read of God's call to Abram, to depart from his home and kindred and travel to a land that God would show him, and of Abram's obedience to God's direction, though he did not know his ultimate destination. Romans 4 harkens back to Abraham's choice, declaring that "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." And in John 3 we read the familiar and much-loved narrative of Jesus' nighttime conversation with Nicodemus—a Pharisee, a leader of the Jews, a teacher of Israel, who came to Jesus because his heart was quickened. Though he did not come openly in daylight, he was not embarrassed to ask Jesus seemingly naïve questions as Jesus led him into a discussion of what Nicodemus really wanted to know: the nature of the Kingdom of God, the identity of Jesus, and the way to eternal life.

What is the Lord calling you to in this Lenten season? Has He asked you to put something off, to give something up for Lent? Has He asked you to take

INVOCATION

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

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Blessed assurance, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873. Hymn tune: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

God has given us life —
we who were dead
in the trespasses and sins in which we once walked,
following the course of this world;
we who were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of humankind.

**But God, being rich in mercy,
because of His great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
made us alive together with Christ,
and raised us up with Him
and seated us with Him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come
He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life.**

For God did not send His Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

— from Ephesians 2:1-9; John 3:16-17

on a discipline of prayer or service, or study and reading, or perhaps solitude and quiet? In this journey of Lent, how are you moving away from a focus on self and toward Christ-centeredness?

This classic hymn, with words from the wonderful lyricist Fanny Crosby, echoes Jesus' words in John 3: "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. . . . Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." (3:3, 5 NIV) And then these words: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (3:16 NKJV)

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

*Though the LORD is high and exalted, yet He regards the lowly;
but the proud and haughty He sees only from afar.* – Psalm 138:6

“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 LORD takes delight in His people;
He will beautify the humble with salvation.* – Psalm 149:4

[Silence]

Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

**We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We do not always love you with a pure heart.
We do not always love our neighbor as ourselves.
We do not always do justice and love kindness.**

[Silence]

**We desire to walk humbly with You, in Your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Have mercy on us, O God, in Your loving-kindness.
Cleanse us from our sin,
that we may be holy and blameless before You,
to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

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

CCLI Song # 4091787 ©2003 Mail Train Music. Phil Madeira

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The proof of God’s amazing love is this:
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but so that the world through Him might be saved.*

All those who believe in Him are not condemned,
because they have believed in the name
of the only begotten Son of God,
and have loved the Light.
They have come to the Light,
that they may walk in the truth.

– from Romans 5:8, John 3:17-21

Thanks be to God!

This simple, traditional prayer of confession and repentance is adapted 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]

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.

O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward
To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

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Text: Samuel Trevor Francis, 1875. Hymn tune: Thomas J. Williams, EBENEZER, 1890.

THE WORD

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Luke 13:31-35

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.

Ellen's setting and arrangement of O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus has a gentle 2/2 feel, with light jazz-inspired harmonies. It is available by request as a lead sheet. Contact us at: clerestorynotes@gmail.com

**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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How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss!
The Father turns His face away.
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

CCLI Song #1558110 ©1995 Thankyou Music. Stuart Townend

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

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.

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| worshiptogether.com songs. Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin

Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as you go forth from this place,
do so remembering that God is our Light, our salvation, and our joy,
who in His eternal faithfulness saves, sustains, enables, and encourages us.

Amen.

Now may the Lord direct your hearts
into God's love and Christ's perseverance,
as you walk in Christ's own footsteps,
taking on His likeness,
in this journey of Lent.

**We remember, and we go with grateful hearts
into the world to love and serve the Lord.
Amen. Thanks be to God.**

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“We must be persuaded how much God loved us and what type of people we were whom he loved.’ We must be persuaded how much God loved us so that we don't shrink from Him in despair. And we need to be shown also what kind of people we are whom He loved so that we also don't withdraw from Him out of pride. But He dealt with us so that we could profit from His strength, and, in the weakness of humility, our holiness could be perfected. One of the Psalms implies this. It says, ‘Thou, O God, didst send a spontaneous rain, whereby Thou didst make Thine inheritance perfect, when it was weary.’ The ‘spontaneous rain’ is grace given freely and not according to merit. He didn't give it because we were worthy, but because He willed. Knowing this, we shouldn't trust in ourselves. That is what is meant by being made ‘weak.’ However, He perfects us and says to the Apostle Paul, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ We, then, must be persuaded how much God loved us and what type of people we were whom He loved. The former is important, lest we despair; the latter, lest we become proud.”

– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

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You will notice that our usual closing of the benediction, “Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!” is missing. That is because it’s customary during Lent to refrain from saying “Alleluia!” In a sense, we fast from this exuberant expression of praise, which makes it all the more meaningful and glorious when we declare on Resurrection Sunday, “Christ is risen, Alleluia!”