

Liturgy

The Second Sunday in Lent
Year B

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship our God, the God of steadfast love,
to tell of His greatness, and to declare His name.

**In the midst of the assembly we will praise You;
we will fulfill our vows before those who fear You.**

You who fear the LORD, praise Him.

All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him;
and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel.

**You, O LORD, are the Holy One. In You our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and You delivered them.**

**To You they cried and were rescued;
in You they trusted and were not put to shame.**

For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted;
He has not turned away His face.

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the earth shall worship before Him.**

**For dominion belongs to the LORD
and He rules over the nations.**

Posterity will serve Him; future generations will hear of the LORD.

**They will proclaim His deliverance to a people yet unborn,
declaring that He has done it!**

—from Psalm 22:3-5, 22-31

Only A Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness tremble?
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendour outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.

Chorus:

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory outshines the fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God.

Chorus

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God.

Chorus

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Integrity's Alleluia! Music | Integrity's Praise! Music.
Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, Dustin Smith, Rich Thompson.

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

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

On this second Sunday of our Lenten journey, we continue our focus on the Cross and the Covenant. As we study and reflect on the Old Testament covenants between God and His people, how do we see them fulfilled in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ? In this perhaps best-known covenant in the Old Testament, found in Genesis 17, God's encounter with Abram has the most far reaching implications imaginable: He tells Abram that he will be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. And God gives Abram, whose name means "exalted father," a new name: Abraham ("father of a multitude"). The lectionary readings for today tie God's promise to Abraham with the sufferings of Christ, and assure us that we, too, share in the promise by faith.

INVOCATION

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

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
The Ancient of eternal days, and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heav'n confessed:
We bow and bless the sacred Name, forever blest.

He by Himself hath sworn; we on His oath depend.
We shall, on eagles' wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
We shall behold His face; we shall His pow'r adore
And sing the wonders of His grace forevermore.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Text: Thomas Olivers, 1765;
based on the Hebrew *Yigdal* of Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400.
Tune: Traditional Hebrew melody.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

What shall we say that Abraham our forefather has found?

**If Abraham was justified by works,
he has something to boast about,
but not before God.**

What does Scripture say?

**“Abraham believed God,
and it was accounted to him as righteousness.”**

Now, to the one who works,

wages are not credited as a gift, but as an obligation.

**But to the those who do not work
but trust in God who justifies the ungodly,
their faith is credited as righteousness.**

For the promise that he would inherit the world
did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law
but through the righteousness of faith.

**For this reason it depends on faith:
in order that the promise may rest on grace
and be guaranteed to all his descendants,
not only to those who are of the law
but also to those who have the faith of Abraham.
He is the father of us all,
in the sight of God in whom he believed,
God who gives life to the dead
and calls into being things that were not.**

Now the words, “his faith was accounted to him as righteousness,”
were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also.

**For righteousness is accounted to us who believe in Him
who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.
He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.**

– from Romans 4:1-5, 13-25

This ancient hymn of praise is an obvious, and wonderful, choice for today's emphasis on the Abrahamic covenant. We sing the first two verses here, at Invocation, and the final verse below, at Sending.

Ellen's setting of The God of Abraham Praise is available by request.

You may email us at:

clerestorynotes@gmail.com

The Profession of Faith adds the first five verses of Romans 4 to the Lectionary selection.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession: Mark 8:34-36:

Jesus called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become My disciples let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their soul?"

[Silence]

Almighty and loving God,

We are Your covenant people – drawn by Your grace into relationship with You. Yet we confess that we have often failed to live as You would have us live. We have not done Your will; we have not kept Your law; we have rebelled against Your love; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Focus us on the cross and on Your covenant love, which You perfected through Him who is the Lord and King and Judge of us all, Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

[Silence]

Lamb of God

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

CCLI Song #3204324 ©1989 Celebration. Betty Carr Pulkingham

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be blessed by these words of assurance which God spoke to Abraham:

"I will establish my covenant between Me and you
and your descendants after you throughout their generations
for an everlasting covenant.

I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

– Genesis 17:7

**The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.**

– Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

**If the whole realm of nature were ours,
it would be an offering far too small.
Your amazing love demands our souls, our lives, our all.
With grateful hearts, we give to You ourselves,
Your tithes, and our offerings. Amen.**

The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

Chorus

O, the wonderful cross;
O, the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die,
And find that I may truly live.
O, the wonderful cross;
O, the wonderful cross:
All who gather here
By grace draw near,
And bless Your name.

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Chorus

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707. Music: Lowell Mason, 1824.
Setting and chorus: Chris Tomlin, J. D. Walt, Jesse Reeves.
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THE WORD

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

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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Every Promise

From the breaking of the dawn to the setting of the sun,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.
Words of power, strong to save, that will never pass away;
I will stand on every promise of Your word.
For Your covenant is sure, and on this I am secure:
I can stand on every promise of Your word.

When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.
You are faithful to forgive, that in freedom I might live.
So I stand on every promise of Your word.
Guilt to innocence restored; You remember sins no more.
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for Your voice,
And I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
Through this dark and troubled land,
You will guide me with Your hand,
As I stand on every promise of Your word.
And You've promised to complete every work begun in me.
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

Hope that lifts me from despair; love that casts out every fear,
As I stand on every promise of Your word.
Not forsaken, not alone, for the Comforter has come;
And I stand on every promise of Your word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me; grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on every promise of Your word.

CCLI Song #4642105 ©2005 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty and 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

The God of Abraham Praise (verse 4)

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” they ever cry.
Hail, Abr’ham’s God and mine! With heav’n our songs we raise:
All might and majesty are Thine and endless praise.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Text: Thomas Olivers, 1765; based on the Hebrew *Yigdal* of Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400. Tune: Traditional Hebrew melody.

Benediction:

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world
to live out your baptisms, loving and serving the Lord,
be encouraged to observe a holy Lent,
walking in Christ’s own footsteps and taking on His likeness.
And whether the Spirit asks you to put something off,
or take something on,
do it in the name of the Lord Jesus—
as we, His covenant people,
follow Him on the way to the cross.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers – “Those who have not denied themselves cannot follow Jesus. For choosing to follow Jesus and to actually follow Him springs from no ordinary courage. Those who deny themselves wipe out their former, wicked lives. For example, those who once were immoral deny their immoral selves and become self-controlled forever. . . . Those who have become righteous don't confess themselves but Christ. Those who find wisdom, because they possess wisdom, also confess Christ. And those who, ‘with the heart believe unto righteousness, and with the mouth make confession unto salvation,’ and testify for Christ's works by confessing them to others, will be confessed by Christ before His Father in heaven. . . . As a result, let every thought, every purpose, every word, and every action become a denial of ourselves and a testimony about Christ and in Christ. I am persuaded that the perfect person's every action is a testimony to Christ Jesus and that abstinence from every sin is a denial of self, leading to Christ. Those people are crucified with Christ. They take up their own crosses to follow Him who, for our sake, bears His own cross.”

– Origen

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 20:1-17;
Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25;
John 2:13-22

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We close the service with the final verse of our Invocation hymn—a hymn of praise and glory that reminds us of God’s sovereign power and of the assurance that our eternal future is with Him.

You will remember that our usual closing of the benediction, (Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!) is missing during Lent. That is because it’s customary during this season 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!”