

*Liturgy*  
The Second Sunday in Lent  
Year C

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the LORD,  
and to declare the Name  
of the one who is our light and salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
*The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?*

**One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
this one thing will I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD  
and to meditate in His temple.**

How blessed are those You choose and bring near  
to dwell in Your courts!

*We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,  
Your holy temple.*

**By awesome deeds You answer us in righteousness,  
O God of our salvation, the hope of all the earth.**

Therefore we offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle;  
In His dwelling let us offer sacrifices with sounds of great gladness;  
Come, let us sing praises and make melody to the LORD.

— from Psalms 27 and 65:4-5

*Better Is One Day*

How lovely is Your dwelling place,  
O Lord Almighty.  
For my soul longs and even faints for You.  
For here my heart is satisfied,  
Within Your presence;  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

*Chorus*

Better is one day in Your courts,  
Better is one day in Your house,  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek:  
To see Your beauty,  
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

*Chorus*

*Bridge*

My heart and flesh cry out  
For You, the living God;  
Your Spirit's water to my soul.  
I've tasted and I've seen,  
Come once again to me;  
I will draw near to You,  
I will draw near to You.

CCLI Song # 1097451 ©1995 Thankyou Music. Matt Redman. (Bridge lyric altered)

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

*Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

*Psalm 27*

*Philippians 3:17 – 4:1*

*Luke 13:31-35*

*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, so that we may say with David, "One thing have I asked of the Lord, this one thing I will seek ..." The Amplified Bible renders this verse in this way: "... that will I seek, inquire for, and [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD [in His presence] all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and delightful loveliness] of the LORD and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple."*

*Each of the readings in today's lectionary point to a similar desire for "one thing." For Abram, his concern was his legacy, his posterity, but he mainly longed for the fulfillment of God's covenant promises to him and his descendants. In Paul's letter to the Philippians, we read his exhortation that our citizenship is in heaven, and therefore we ought to imitate the examples we have in Christ and in those who faithfully follow Him in view of His powerful promise of eternal life. And in Luke 13, we see Christ's steadfast determination to complete the work toward which He has set His face—His crucifixion and death, His rising in victory, and His ascension (see also Lk 9:51).*

*What is the Lord calling you to this Lenten season? Has He asked you to put something off, give something up for Lent? Has He asked you to take on a discipline of prayer, or service, or study and reading, or perhaps solitude and quiet? Has He asked you to meditate more on His presence—what that means in your life, and how you might*

INVOCATION

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

*Beautiful Savior*

Beautiful Savior, king of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.  
Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677;  
Transl. source unknown, vs 1-3; verse 4, Joseph A. Seiss.  
Music *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Refrain: *The Lord is My Light*

The LORD is my light, my light and salvation;  
In God I trust, in God I trust.

*Songs and Prayers from Taizé*  
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(spoken)

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?*

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh,  
my adversaries and my foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.

*Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
in this I will be confident:*

*Refrain*

For in the day of trouble  
He will hide me in His shelter.

*He will conceal me  
in the secret place of His dwelling,  
and set me high on a rock.*

Even now He lifts up my head  
above my enemies round about me.

*I would have despaired unless I had believed  
that I would see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.*

*Refrain*

*grow closer to Him and more like Him? What is the "one thing" God is calling you to in this journey of Lent?*

*We chose this less-familiar wording of the first verse of the classic hymn, Fairest Lord Jesus, because it resonates so well with the Psalm text.*

*This sung Profession of Faith uses the wonderful, simple Taizé chorus as a responsorial refrain woven into the verses of today's Psalm. You may have another hymn or chorus (or part of one) that you'd like to use in its place. There are several that would work as sung responsorials here.*

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me.  
*When You said, "Seek my face," my heart said to You,  
"Your face, O LORD, I shall seek."*

Do not hide Your face from me,  
do not turn Your servant away in anger.  
You have been my help;  
do not abandon me nor forsake me,  
O God of my salvation.

**Teach me Your way, O LORD,  
and lead me in a level path because of my enemies.**

– Psalm 27:7-9, 11

[Silence]

Eternal God, You have made us for Yourself,  
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.  
**Yet we confess that we have allowed our hearts to be drawn away from You.  
We have sought after many things, and have neglected the one thing needful.**

**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.**

[Silence]

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.**

## *Blest Are the Pure in Heart*

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;  
The secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,  
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:  
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

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Text: verses 1 and 3, John Keble, 1819; verses 2 and 4, *Mitre Hymn Book*, 1836.  
Music: Ellen Koehler, 2013.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and deliverance:  
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and great in mercy.  
He is righteous in all His ways,  
and faithful in all He does.

*The LORD is near to all who call on Him,  
to all who call on Him in truth.  
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;  
He will hear their cry and save them.  
The LORD keeps all who love Him.*

**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.**

– Psalm 145:8, 17-21

*The prayer of confession is crafted using phrases from the beautiful prayer of Saint Augustine, from the traditional morning prayer of confession in the Book of Common Prayer, and from a Lenten prayer contained in an article in Reformed Worship, a quarterly journal of resources for planning and leading worship. CRC Publications, #34, December 1994. URL: <http://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1994/genuine-sorrowwholehearted-joy-why-when-and-how-confession> (Resources are declared to be in the public domain.)*

*Music for Blest Are the Pure in Heart is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet. This simple hymn, with the newly-composed melody, has four verses. For this song of confession, we have used verses 1, 2, and 4 here. Please see the commentary on this hymn setting in the Music Room (sheet music catalog) for explanatory notes and performance suggestions.*

*Here's the link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/blest-are-pure-heart>

## TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.

### *Lord of Lords*

Beholding Your beauty is all that I long for.  
To worship You, Jesus, is my sole desire.  
For this very heart You have shaped for Your pleasure,  
Purposed to lift Your name higher.

Here in surrender, in pure adoration,  
I enter Your courts with an offering of praise.  
I am Your servant, come to bring You glory,  
As is fit for the works of Your hands.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,  
Be glory and honour and praise.  
All of creation resounds with the song:  
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.

Spirit now living and dwelling within me,  
Keep my eyes fixed ever on Jesus' face.  
Let not the things of this world ever sway me,  
I'll run 'til I finish the race.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,  
Be glory and honour and praise.  
All of creation resounds with the song:  
Worship and praise Him, the Lord.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,  
Be glory and honour and praise.  
All of eternity echoes the song:  
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.

Holy Lord, You are holy. Jesus Christ is the Lord.

Now unto the Lamb who sits on the throne,  
Be glory and honour and praise.  
Call all the sinners to join in the song:  
Worship and praise Him, the Lord of lords.  
Lord of lords . . .

CCLI Song #4869971 ©2007 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia. Brooke Ligertwood

## THE WORD

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Psalms 27

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.**

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

*Another song suggestion is the classic hymn Be Thou My Vision, especially in light of these wonderful third-verse lyrics: "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."*

*For interesting historical background and notes on the hymn's composition, see the commentary in the Clerestory Notes Music Room:*

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

*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)

*Christ Be Beside Me*

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts, thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues, telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.

Text: *St. Patrick's Breastplate*; adapt. by James Quinn.  
Tune: BUNESSAN; Public Domain

*Knees to the Earth*

Wonderful Savior, my heart belongs to Thee.  
I will remember always the blood You shed for me.  
Wonderful Savior, my heart will know Your worth,  
So I will embrace You always as I walk this earth.

*Chorus:*

Be blessed, be loved, be lifted high;  
Be treasured here, be glorified;  
I owe my life to You, my Lord,  
Here I am.

Beautiful Jesus, how may I bless Your heart?  
Knees to the earth, I bow down to ev'rything You are.  
Beautiful Jesus, You are my only worth;  
So let me embrace You always as I walk this earth.

*Bridge:*

Here I am, here I am,  
Knees to the earth, here I am.

CCLI song #4209627; ©2003 Word Music; Cristy Nockels and Nathan Nockels

*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>)*

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

**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 you.

**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 –*

“I am only intent on ‘one thing’ says Paul, ‘in stretching forward to the things which are before.’ But included in this ‘one thing’ he says, is ‘forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.’ Forgetting the past things made him reach forward to the things ahead. So then, any who think they have accomplished it all and need no further perfecting can stop running. They have reached their goal. But those who think they are still far from the goal will never stop running. You should think like the latter, even if you perform ten thousand good deeds. For if Paul thought thus, after ten thousand deaths and so many dangers, how much more should we? . . . We should act like him, forget our successes, and throw them behind us. For runners don't think about how many laps they have finished, but how many are left. We, too, should think not about how we are advanced in holiness, but about how much farther we have to go. For how do we profit from what we have when we don't add what we lack? In addition, Paul didn't say, ‘I don't think about,’ but ‘I don't even remember.’ For we become eager when we diligently work toward what is left, when we forget everything else.”

– Chrysostom

**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

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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!”*