

Liturgy
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Year A

GATHERING

Gloria Patri

Cantor:

Lord, open our lips, and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

All:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever,
Forever. Amen, amen, amen.

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Who is like You, O God?

Majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders!

**You, O God, are mighty forever, glorious in power;
Your faithfulness surrounds You.**

You sustain the living,
and give life to the dead;

**You support the falling,
loose those who are bound,
and keep Your faithfulness to all generations.**

Who is like you, O LORD God of hosts?

All Your works praise You,
and Your faithful servants bless You.

**This is my God, and I will praise Him;
this is our God; we will exalt Him.**

— from Exodus 15; Psalm 89

Come, let us praise and bless His glorious name.

Garments of Praise

Put on the garments of praise
For the spirit of heaviness;
Let the oil of gladness flow down
From Your throne.
Put on the garments of praise
For the spirit of heaviness;
Your joy is my strength alone,
My strength alone.

Make these broken, weary bones
Rise to dance again;
Wet this dry and thirsty land with a river.
Lord, our eyes are fixed on You,
And we are waiting
For Your garland of grace,
As we praise Your name.

CCLI Song #2896001 ©1999 Integrity's Praise! Music; Jamie Harvill

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

The Lenten season is nearly completed. For those who are observing Lent as a journey of walking with Christ on His way to the cross that we may be increasingly formed into His image and filled with His heart and mind, this has been a season of spiritual discipline—a time of setting aside (“putting off”) habits, practices, and perhaps indulgences that distract us from our journey’s ultimate destination, and a time of “putting on” the habits and practices that enable us to become more like Christ. On this fifth Sunday of Lent, as in the ancient church, our focus now turns with quickening intensity to the final weeks of Christ’s earthly ministry, to the coming events of Holy Week, to the passion of Christ, and ultimately to His triumphant raising from the dead on Resurrection Sunday.

The Scriptures in today’s lectionary invite us to complete our contemplation of what we’ve described in this year A as portraits of the Lenten soul. Each of them speaks to the hopeful theme of life arising from death—in the well-known story of Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones; the penitential psalm’s appeal, “Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice ...;” the epistle’s declaration that we live now because of the Spirit who lives in us; and the narrative of Jesus’ miraculous raising of Lazarus from the dead. What does it mean in our lives, now, that Jesus is “the Resurrection and the Life”?

Ellen’s setting of the “lesser doxology,” Gloria Patri, is available in the music catalog (Liturgical Settings) as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano accompaniment.

*<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/gloria-patri>
You can hear Gloria Patri in the Audio Media Studio section of the Music Room.*

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/gloria-patri-clip

INVOCATION

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy,
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
Blessèd Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy;
There is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r,
In love and purity.

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Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in these words from the epistle of the Apostle Paul
to the church at Rome:

The mind set on the flesh is death,
but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.
*The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God;
it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
Those who are in the realm of the flesh
cannot please God.*

However, we are not in the realm of the flesh
but in the realm of the Spirit,
because the Spirit of God lives in us
and we belong to Christ.

*Christ is in us,
and though the body is dead because of sin,
yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

**But if the Spirit of Him
who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us,
He who raised Christ from the dead
will also give life to our mortal bodies
through His Spirit who lives in us.**

– from Romans 8:6-11

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul,
And bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul,
Who leads me into life.

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We sing the Gathering song of thanksgiving and hope, Garments of Praise (previous page), on this fifth Sunday of Lent a bit slower and softer than it is usually sung. It has a wonderful resonance with the raising of Lazarus, when Jesus commands that those gathered at the tomb release him from his grave clothes. In keeping with tradition of not singing or saying "Alleluia" or "Hallelujah" until Resurrection Sunday, we don't sing the song's bridge.

The Profession of faith is crafted from the Epistle reading for Lent 5A.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Out of the depths I have cried to You.
LORD, hear my voice.
Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
If you kept a record of sins,
O LORD, who could stand?
But with You there is forgiveness;
so that we can, with reverence, serve You.

– Psalm 130:1-4

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against others,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

[Silence]

**We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.
Revive us by your Holy Spirit.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I love the LORD,
because He has heard my voice and my supplications.
**Because He inclined His ear unto me,
therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.**
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
**He has delivered our souls from death,
our eyes from tears, our feet from stumbling.
We will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**

Thanks be to God!

– from Psalm 116:1-9

Passing of the Peace

The Call to confession is the Psalm text from today's lectionary. It is set for two readers, or two groups within the congregation.

This prayer of confession is taken, in part, from the Book of Common Prayer (an Order for Compline, and the traditional prayer for Ash Wednesday).

This setting of Agnus Dei is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You may hear Agnus Dei in the Audio Media Studio.

Here are the links:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei>

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/agnus-dei-clip

The Assurance of Pardon continues the theme of life out of death, and is a lovely reply to the cry of the Call to Confession.

TIME OF OFFERING

Great Are You, Lord

You give life; You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope; You restore
Every heart that is broken.
And great are You, Lord.

It's Your breath in our lungs;
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs;
So we pour out our praise to You only.

And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
"Great are You, Lord!"

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Integrity's Praise! Music |
Open Hands Music | So Essential Tunes.
Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan, David Leonard.

THE WORD

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

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.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever. Amen.**

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

Out of the depths I cry to You,
In darkest places I will call.
Incline Your ear to me anew,
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were You to count my sinful ways,
How could I come before Your throne?
Yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.

Chorus

I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
On Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.

So put your hope in God alone,
Take courage in His pow'r to save,
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave.

Chorus

Now He has come to make our way,
And God Himself has paid the price,
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice.

Chorus

I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
Through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight.

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Jordan Kauflin, Matthew Merker, Keith Getty, Stuart Townend.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Holy, Holy, Holy (verse 4)

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name,
In earth, and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy;
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
Blessèd Trinity!

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Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

Our song for Table is the lovely Getty Music setting of today's psalm.

*If this part of the worship service includes a time of lingering around the Table, or of extended worship and prayer, an additional song choice here could be Breathing the Breath (CCLI Song #4328876 ©2004 ThankYou Music; Matt Redman):
"We are breathing the breath that You gave us to breath to worship You, to worship You ..."*

Benediction:

Now brothers and sisters, as we go forth into the world to live out our baptisms, may we – like Lazarus – walk out freely and confidently, always remembering that the Lord, Jesus Christ, is the Resurrection and the Life. In His steadfast love, He faithfully guides, protects, sustains and encourages us.

Amen.

Now may the Lord direct your hearts and keep your souls in God’s love as you observe a holy Lent, walking in Christ’s own footsteps and taking on His likeness.

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 boldly affirm that He who is above every name has many names in relation to us. And I receive them according to His various ways of dealing graciously with us. He is called the Light when He disperses the gloom of ignorance. He is the Life when He gives us the blessing of eternal life. He is called the Way when He guides us from error to the truth. Also He is called a ‘Tower of strength,’ a ‘City of encompassing,’ a Fountain, a Rock, a Vine, a Physician, and the Resurrection. All such terms refer to the various righteous blessings He gave to us. But those who set their sights on things beyond human understanding, who see the incomprehensible, but overlook what is comprehensible, use such titles to explain God. They are not only positive that they see Him, but measure Him whom no one has seen or can see.”

– Gregory of Nyssa

Lectionary for next week: Liturgy of the Palms:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;

Philippians 2:5-11;

Matthew 26:14 - 27:54

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Remember 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!”