

Liturgy
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Year B

GATHERING

Your covenant love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,
Your faithfulness extends to the skies.

**Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.**

Your testimonies are fully confirmed;

**Holiness befits Your house,
O LORD, forevermore.**

Whom have I in heaven but You?

And on earth, I desire nothing besides You.

**My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.**

As for me, the nearness of God is my good.

**I have made the LORD God my refuge,
that I may tell of all Your works.**

O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,
And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 36, 93, 73

All To Us

Precious cornerstone,
Sure foundation,
You are faithful
To the end.
We are waiting
On You, Jesus.
We believe;
You're all to us.
(repeat)

Chorus:

Let the glory of Your name
Be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God
Be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ
Be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You're all to us.

Only Son of God,
Sent from heaven;
Hope and mercy
At the cross.
You are everything,
You're the promise;
Jesus, You are all to us.

CCLI Song #5869860 ©2010 worshiptogether.com songs.
Chris Tomlin/Jesse Reeves/Matt Maher/Matt Redman.

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Our Lenten journey is nearly completed. In this season of focus and reflection on the atoning and reconciling work of Christ, we intentionally seek to follow in His footsteps, that we might increasingly take on His likeness as we walk with Him in His last earthly journey to the foot of the cross. Next Sunday we remember and observe His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. But today we finish our thematic study of the Cross and the Covenant, and our contemplation of the ways in which the Old Testament covenants between God and His people were fulfilled in the Person and Work of Christ. In John 12 Jesus declares, "If I am lifted up, I will draw all people to Myself." He means this to speak of the cross, of course. But does He also mean us to think in other terms of His being high and exalted? The Hebrews passage teaches that from His suffering and sacrifice, Jesus became the perfect and eternal High Priest. One of the distinguishing features of the New Covenant is that God puts His law within us, writing it on our hearts, drawing us ever closer to Christ. The Psalm texts speak of what characterizes the lives of those who have the law of God written within them.

The Gathering reading weaves together psalm passages that reflect God's covenant relationship with us and describe the heart attitude of those in whom His law is written.

INVOCATION

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

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him, praise Him!
Jesus, our blessed Redeemer.
For our sins He suffered and bled and died.
He, our Rock,
Our hope of eternal salvation:
Hail Him, hail Him: Jesus, the Crucified.
Sound His praises,
Jesus who bore our sorrows;
Love unbounded,
Wonderful, deep and strong.

Chorus:

Praise Him, praise Him!
Tell of His excellent greatness.
Praise Him, praise Him
Ever in joyful song.

Praise Him, praise Him!
Jesus, our blessed Redeemer.
Heav'nly portals
Loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior,
Reigneth forever and ever;
Crown Him, crown Him
Prophet and Priest and King.
Christ is coming over the world victorious:
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1869. Music: Chester G. Allen, 1869

PROFESSION OF FAITH

God was pleased, in His eternal purpose,
to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus,
His only begotten Son,
to be the Mediator between God and human beings.

**As the Mediator,
He is the Prophet, Priest, and King,
the Head and Savior of His church,
the Heir of all things,
and the Judge of the world.**

God gave to Him, from all eternity,
a people to be His seed
and to be by Him, in time,
redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

**The Lord Jesus,
by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself –
which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up to God –
has fully satisfied the justice of His Father;
and purchased not only reconciliation
but also an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven
for all those whom the Father has given to Him.**

– from Westminster Confession (MESV), Chap. VIII, Sec. 1, 5

This wonderful, classic Fanny J. Crosby hymn text draws in many of the themes in today's readings. Hail Him! Our blessed Redeemer, Jesus the crucified, the perfect sacrifice, now Prophet, and Priest, and victorious King!

*A useful online resource for historic documents of the church is The Center for Reformed Theology and Apologetics:
<https://www.reformed.org/documents/historic-confessions/>*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

How can the young cleanse their way?
How can Your servants keep their way pure?
By keeping it according to Your word.
With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
*Your word I have hidden in my heart,
that I might not sin against You.*

Blessed are You, O Lord!

Teach me Your statutes.

**With my lips I have declared
all the judgments of Your mouth.**

**I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies
as much as in all riches.**

I will meditate on Your precepts
and contemplate Your ways.
*I will delight in Your statutes;
I will not forget Your word.*

– from Psalm 119:9-17

[Silence]

Create In Me A Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart,
O Lord, my God;
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away
From Thy presence, O God,
Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me
The joy of Thy salvation,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Bridge:

Lord, renew my spirit,
And restore my soul.

CCLI Song #96927; ©1982 Bases Loaded Music. Brown Bannister.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's covenant promise to His people:

“If they repent, I will restore them
that they may serve Me and stand before Me.
“I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.
I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
“And they shall all know Me,
for I will forgive their iniquity,
and remember their sins no more.”

– from Jeremiah 15:19 and 31:33-34

Thanks be to God!

Our time of confession utilizes both of today's Psalm texts, one spoken in antiphonal prayer, the other sung. This version of Create In Me A Clean Heart has a plaintive character about it, apt for this Lenten Sunday.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

My Lips will Praise You

My lips will praise You,
For You are holy.
My voice will ever
Rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You,
For You are lovely,
And You have called me
To become Your own.

I am Your own,
And I will worship You alone.
I am Your own,
I am Your child.
I am Your own,
And I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own,
And I will love You.

CCLI Song #2552912 ©1998
Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music.
Twila Paris.

*This song of offering echoes Psalm
119:13: "With my lips I declare all
the ordinances of Your mouth."*

THE WORD

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

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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Before the Throne of God Above

Before the Throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose Name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Before Him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am,
The King of glory and of grace:
One with Himself I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His Blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God.

Original words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863).
Music: Vikki Cook. ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship.
CCLI Song #2306412.

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

Here's a link:

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

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

All To Us (reprise)

Let the glory of Your name
Be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God
Be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ
Be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You're all to us.

CCLI Song #5869860 ©2010 worshiptogether.com songs. Tomlin/ Reeves/Maher/ Redman.

Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world
to live out your baptisms, loving and serving the Lord,
be encouraged in your observance of a holy Lent,
walking in Christ's own footsteps and taking on His likeness.
And as you continue your Lenten journey,
putting things off or taking things on, as the Holy Spirit leads,
do it all 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...—“Death is destroyed. The cross has triumphed over it. It no longer has any power but is truly dead. This is why all of Christ's disciples despise death and no longer fear it. They take the offensive against it. And by the sign of the cross and by faith in Christ they trample it down as dead. Before the Savior came, death was terrible to the saints. Everyone wept for the dead as though they perished. But now that the Savior has risen, death isn't terrible anymore. For everyone who believes in Christ tramples over death. . . . They testify of Christ's victorious Resurrection.”

— Athanasius

Lectionary for next week: Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1—15:47

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

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!”