

Liturgy
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Year C

GATHERING

We are gathered to declare the glory, power, majesty, and grace of our God!

Hear the word of the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters:
Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
The beasts of the field will honor Me,
for I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert,
to give drink to My chosen people,
the people whom I formed for Myself
that they might declare My praise

— from Isaiah 43:16-21

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of His name!
Make His praise glorious!
Say to God:

How awesome are Your works!
All the earth worships You,
they sing praises to Your name.

Come and see what God has done.

He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of men.

We have been tested and tried,
yet He has brought us out into a place of abundance.

When the LORD brought back the captive ones of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then it was said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad!

Our mouths are filled with laughter,
and our tongues with joyful shouting.

All who see us declare, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

— from Psalms 66:1-12 and 126:1-3

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

LECTIONARY for the fifth Sunday in Lent, Year C:

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

The Lenten season is nearly completed. For those who are following 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 the goal of knowing Christ, as Paul reminds us in Philippians 3, so that we can make room for (“put on”) the attitudes and actions of Jesus. 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 events of Holy Week, to the passion of Christ, and ultimately to His triumphant raising from the dead on Resurrection Sunday.

Today’s readings encourage, strengthen, and sustain us in our faith in these waning weeks of Lent. Isaiah conveys the wonderful promise of the Lord, that He is doing a new thing. Let us perceive it! The psalmist marvels at the deliverance of the captives and their (our!) exuberant declaration that “the Lord has done great things for us! We are glad!” Paul reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven. We therefore are to forget what lies behind so that we may press on toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. But that prize and the blessing of knowing Him and the power of His resurrection come at a cost, not only to Him but to us. And finally, in John we read of Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus whom Jesus so recently had miraculously raised from the dead. In her great thankfulness and love for the Lord, she anointed His feet with costly perfume and wiped them with her

Bridge:

Sing to the Lord, exalt His name;
O, make His praise glorious.
Pour forth His praise,
His anthem raise;
Rejoice in Him forever.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Bridge

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

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Words from *Fourscore and Seven Psalms of David* (Geneva, 1561),
attributed to William Kethe.
Hymn tune (verses): *Old 100th*, attributed to Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

INVOCATION

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

Sing to the Lord

Eternal, Immortal God of all glory,
Fearful in wonders and worthy of praise;
The Alpha, Omega, Lord God Almighty,
Wonderful, Beautiful, Ancient of Days.

Chorus

And I sing praise, I give You my heart,
I sing praise, I give You my all, I sing praise –
Sing to the Lord.

Redeemer, Messiah, Rock of the ages,
A help in trouble, a tower of strength;
Emmanuel, Jehovah, God of Creation,
Wonderful, Beautiful, King of all kings.

Chorus

Bridge

God of compassion and God of all gladness and
Your tender mercies are new every morning, and
God of compassion and God of all gladness and
You dance around me; You dance around me.

Chorus

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hair. This sample liturgy weaves together all of these scriptures, but with a special focus on Mary's extravagant expression of worship and its implications for our lives, especially as we, Christ's disciples, walk with Him in these final days of the Lenten journey.

Music for Ellen's setting of All People That On Earth Do Dwell is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet, scored for voice and piano accompaniment, and arranged for instruments (woodwind quintet, string orchestra, and others on request).

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/all-people-earth-do-dwell>

You may hear several variations of All People That On Earth Do Dwell in the Audio Media Studio.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/audio-media-studio-clips-index>

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The testimony of the Lord, from Paul's epistle to the Philippians:

Whatever things were gain to me

I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Indeed, I count all things as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For His sake, I consider the former things as mere rubbish
in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him,

Not having any righteousness of my own,

but the righteousness that comes from God through faith in Christ.

**This is my goal: to know Him and the power of His resurrection
and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death
so that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

Forgetting what lies behind

and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

*I press on toward the goal of the prize
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

For our citizenship is in heaven,

**from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity
with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has
even to subject all things to Himself.**

– from Philippians 3:7-14, 20-21

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral Call to Confession

Lord, You have called us to become Your own. We were bought with a price,
the price of Your life and blood. We love You, and we want to live for You.

[Silence]

Lord, help us to spread Your fragrance everywhere we go.

**Flood our souls with Your spirit and life. Shine through us, and be so in us,
that every soul we come in contact with may feel Your presence in our souls.
Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus!**

[Silence]

Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine.

**Let us preach You without preaching, not by words but by our example,
by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do,
the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You.**

A Pure Heart

A pure heart, that's what I long for,
A heart that follows hard after You.
(repeat)

A heart that hides Your Word so that sin will not come in,
A heart that's undivided, but one You rule and reign.
A heart that beats compassion, that pleases You, my Lord;
A sweet aroma of worship that rises to Your throne.

CCLI Song #452695 ©1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Rusty Nelson

The prayer of confession today is taken from a prayer by John Henry Newman, a 19th-century British Catholic theologian. Newman's original prayer and Mother Teresa's modification of it are widely available on the web.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.*

**If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the LORD would not have listened.
But truly God has listened;
He has given heed to the words of my prayer.**

Blessed be God, because He has not rejected our prayers
nor removed His steadfast love from us.

– from Psalm 66:16-20

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and expressions of devotion and thanksgiving. . .

Loving Kindness

I will give thanks unto You, Lord,
For You are good: Your loving kindness never ends.
I raise my hands, You heal my soul;
Here in the presence of the Lord my heart's restored.

And You guide me, the paths of righteousness;
And You hide me, the shadow of Your hand; I rest in You.

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord.
I'm my Father's child forevermore.
You heard every cry, You broke every chain,
You alone delivered me.

My Prince of Peace, You lifted me
Where everything that's named is placed under Your feet.

And may my praises be as incense to You, Lord.
And may my worship be a sweet fragrance to You alone, my King.

Chorus

The Son of God, He reigns on the throne.
King of kings, let all the nations know
That the Lord is good, and His mercy endures forever.

For the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever and ever.
Yes, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever.
For the Lord is good.

CCLI Song #5118683 ©2007 Wonder Down Under Music. Miriam Webster.

THE WORD

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

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 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)

Knowing You

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

Chorus

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
To be found by You, and known as Yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn;
All surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life,
And to know You in Your sufferings,
To become like You in Your death, my Lord;
So with You to live, and never die.

CCLI Song #1045238 ©1993 Make Way Music; Graham Kendrick.

Broken and Spilled Out (chorus)

Broken and spilled out just for love of You, Jesus,
My own special treasure, lavished on the Thee.
Broken and spilled out, and poured at Your feet;
In sweet abandon, let me be spilled out and used up for Thee.

CCLI Song #10910 ©1984 Yellow House Music | Hanna Street Music.
Words: Gloria Gaither; Music: Bill George.

Eric Wyse's setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available at Score Exchange (<https://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 alone is your Refuge and Strength,
He who has done great things for us In His eternal faithfulness
He 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. . . 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.”
– Chrysostum

Lectionary for next week:

Liturgy of the Palms – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Passion – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;

Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

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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!”