

Liturgy

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 12, Year B

GATHERING

I will extol You, my God and King.

**Every day I will bless You,
and I will praise Your name forever and ever.**

Great is the LORD,
and greatly to be praised;
His greatness is unsearchable.

*One generation shall praise Your works to another,
and shall declare Your mighty acts.*

They shall celebrate the fame of Your abundant goodness,
and sing aloud of Your righteousness.

*All Your works shall praise You, O LORD,
and all Your saints shall bless You.*

They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom
and talk of Your power;

*To make known to the children of men Your mighty acts
and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.*

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let every creature praise His holy name
Forever and ever.**

—from Psalm 145:1-7, 10-13, 21

Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging,
Mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
Grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
Around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone.

Chorus:

Hallelujah!
Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah!
Glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail,
Helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
Hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
His pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sov'reign God.

Chorus

*LECTIONARY for the tenth Sunday
after Pentecost, Year B:*

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

*This week marks the tenth Sunday of
“ordinary” time, the long season after
Pentecost when we, God’s people,
focus our study and reflection on the
ways in which we walk and live, in all
aspects of our lives, under the contin-
ual guidance and all-sufficient power
of the Holy Spirit. In the early weeks
of this longest season of the liturgical
year, the emphasis of the epistle texts
is on the Church—our identity, our
living together in community, and our
mission in the world—as Christ’s
Body here on earth. The gospel pas-
sages, in Year B taken mainly from
Mark’s writings, and in the next five
weeks from John chapter 6, direct our
attention to Christ’s earthly ministry
as He interacted with, taught, healed
and served the people around Him. In
this, He not only gave an example for
us to emulate (for “as He is, so are we
in this world,” 1 Jn 4:17), but He—
the Word made flesh—revealed the
great love and compassion of our
great God. In Year B, the main Old
Testament readings continue to trace
the history of God’s dealings with His
people, primarily focused on the king-
dom of Israel under the reign of Da-
vid. The second (“alternate”) Old
Testament readings are chosen to
complement the gospel texts, but—as
we are seeing each week—all of the
lectionary texts “speak” to one another
in interesting ways that illumine
each other and reveal new insights
into the Scripture and into God’s will
and plan for His people. Each of the
Psalm passages shows us how these
narratives and highlights of our gra-
cious God’s character and mighty
acts were commemorated and incor-
porated into His people’s ancient
worship of Him, and how the ancient
words of the psalmists resonate and*

Let ev'ry creature in the sea
And ev'ry flying bird,
Let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry field
And valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
In all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word.

Chorus

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Mac Powell and Fernando Ortega.

INVOCATION

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

O ye heights of heav'n, adore* Him;
Angel hosts, His prais*es sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before* Him
And extol our God* and King;
Let no tongue on earth be si*lent;
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore*.
A*men.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2015 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century; transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker.
Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11th century

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in these words
from the pen of the Apostle Paul:

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
From whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name:

I pray that He would grant you,
according to the riches of His glory,
to be strengthened with might
by His Spirit in your inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

*And I pray that you,
being rooted and grounded in love,
may have the power to comprehend,
with all the saints,
what is the breadth
and length
and height
and depth,*

And to know the love of Christ
which surpasses knowledge,
That you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly,
abundantly beyond all that we ask or think,
according to the power that works within us,
to Him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus
to all generations,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

*continue to enrich and deepen our
worship today.*

In the past few weeks, we have pondered the identity of the Church and our worship of God. Today, the lectionary asks us to consider what it means—what it really means—that Christ dwells in our hearts through faith. Is it really our prayer that we may be filled with all the fullness of God? Are we willing to be and to do whatever is necessary in order to be strengthened in our inner selves, and to comprehend and embody the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge? (Take a look earlier in Ephesians chapter 3, where you'll see that we will most likely be required to be transparent, before God and with one another; our faith might be put on display; we may have to suffer. What else do you find in this passage?) Are we willing to deeply repent, if and when that becomes necessary (as we see in this and next week's narrative in 2 Samuel)? Are we willing to acknowledge God as the source of our dependence and provision, the One on whom we depend in complete faith for all of our daily needs, physical and spiritual? And do we trust Him, even when He asks us to believe and to do what is difficult for us (as we see here and in the next few weeks in the readings in John 6)? If we are willing, then we will be able to say with Paul that God "is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us."

Music for this setting of the ancient hymn, Of the Father's Love Begotten, is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and as a sung response or doxology with melody line, chord chart, and scored for keyboard or organ part. For the ease of congregational singing, asterisks indicate syllables that are sung with more than one melodic note. Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/fathers-love-begotten>

This profession of faith sets the Ephesians 3 pericope. If your teaching emphasis is on the John or 2 Kings passage (or both), you might like to add this as a preface, from 2 Cor. 9:8: "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

*The LORD is good to all,
and His mercy is over all He has made.*

The LORD upholds all who fall
and raises up all who are bowed down.

– Psalm 145:8-9, 14

Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

**We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

[Silence]

**We do not always love you with a pure heart.
We do not always love our neighbor as ourselves.
We do not always do justice and love kindness.**

[Silence]

**We desire to walk humbly with You. 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.**

Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.
Almighty God and Father. Amen.

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Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis
(*"Glory to God in the highest"*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and forgiveness:

The LORD 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 fulfills the desire of those who fear Him;
He hears their cry, and saves them.

The LORD watches over 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 145:17-21

in all things at all times, you may
abound in every good work.”

*You'll note that we are weaving to-
day's psalm through the early sections
of this liturgy.*

*Based on the ancient hymn text, Glo-
ria in excelsis, this setting of Agnus
Dei addresses the ascended Lamb of
God, who alone is Lord Most High
and worthy of worship.
Agnus Dei (Canticle 20) is available
in the music catalog as a lead sheet
and scored for voice and piano.*

*Here's the link to the commentary and
sample in the Music Room:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei-canticle-20>

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward
To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

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Text: Samuel Trevor Francis, 1875. Hymn tune: Thomas J. Williams, EBENEZER, 1890.

THE WORD

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

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!

Ellen's setting of this wonderful, traditional hymn, so reflective of the Ephesians text, is available on request. (Email us for details at: clerestorynotes@gmail.com)

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**

God, the Uncreated One (King Forevermore)

God, the uncreated One,
The Author of salvation,
Wrote the laws of space and time,
And fashioned worlds to His design.
The One whom angel hosts revere
Hung the stars like chandeliers,
Numbered every grain of sand,
Knows the heart of every man.
He is King forever; He is King forever;
He is King forevermore.

God, our fortress and our strength,
The Rock on which we can depend;
Matchless in His majesty,
His power and authority;
Unshaken by the schemes of man,
Never changing Great I Am.
Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall,
He is faithful through it all.
Crown Him King forever; crown Him King forever;
Crown Him King forevermore.

Mighty God in mortal flesh,
Forsaken by a traitor's kiss;
The curse of sin and centuries
Did pierce the lowly Prince of Peace.
Lifted high, the sinless Man;
Crucified, the spotless Lamb;
Buried by the sons of man,
Rescued by the Father's hand.
To reign as King forever, reign as King forever,
Reign as King forevermore.

King eternal, God of grace,
We crown You with the highest praise.
Heaven shouts and saints adore,
You're holy, holy, holy Lord!
What joy in everlasting life,
All is love and faith is sight.
Justice rolls and praises rise
At the name of Jesus Christ.
King of kings forever, King of kings forever,
King of kings forevermore.

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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Our Great God (reprise chorus)

Hallelujah!
Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah!
Glory be to our great God!

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Mac Powell and Fernando Ortega.

Benediction:

Beloved, we go forth in joy and with thankful hearts,
to love and serve the Lord, because God Himself –
the God of all grace and Creator of all things, both seen and unseen –
tabernacles in us and is pleased to make His dwelling among us.

Amen!

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think,
according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. (Ephesians 3:20-21)
Amen! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“God is invisible. He can't be seen with eyes but with the heart. If we want to see the sun, we should purge the physical eye. In the same way, if we want to see God, we must purify the eye that we see God with. Where is this eye? Listen to the Gospel of Matthew: ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.’ We shouldn't imagine God according to what we want to see. For then we would make God out to be some huge form or an immense expanse. His figure would extend in all directions like the light we see with our eyes. So either we would make God out to be as big as we could imagine or else picture Him as a benevolent old man. Don't imagine any of these things. But imagine this if you want to see God: ‘God is love.’ What sort of face does love have? What shape does it take? What stature? What feet or hands? No one can say. And yet it has feet that carry people to church. It has hands that reach out to the poor. It has eyes that show us those in need. For it is said, ‘Blessed is the man who considereth the needy and the poor.’ Love also has ears which the Lord spoke about, saying, ‘He that hath ears to hear let him hear.’ These aren't separate parts of love, but bring complete understanding and sight to those who have it. Live in love, and love will live in you. Dwell, and you will be dwelt in.”

– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51;
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

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