

Liturgy

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 14A)

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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Leader:
The Lord has shown forth His glory!

Come, let us give thanks to the LORD,
and call on His name;
Let us worship Him,
and tell of all His wonderful works.

**The LORD is my rock and my salvation,
my shield and fortress, my deliverer.
I will call upon the LORD,
who alone is worthy to be praised.**

Glory in His holy name; remember His wonders,
His miracles, and the judgments He has uttered.
*In my distress I called upon the LORD,
and cried out to my God.*

*He heard my voice from His temple,
and my cry to Him reached His ears.*
He sent from on high, He took me;
He drew me out of many waters.
*He brought me out into a broad place;
He rescued me, because He delighted in me.*
For who is God, but the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God?

**The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation!**

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 18 and 105

*LECTIONARY for the eleventh Sunday
after Pentecost, Year A:*

*Genesis 37:1-4, 12-29
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33*

*We come now to the eleventh Sunday
after the day of Pentecost in this longest
season of the liturgical year when
we study, with new eyes and increased
awe, the attributes and continuously
creative works of God, and reflect on
the ways in which we, His people,
walk and live out our lives in this
world under the continual guidance
and power of the Holy Spirit.*

*The lectionary this week invites us to
focus our hearts and minds on our all-
knowing, all-powerful, and ever-
present God, He who is all-seeing—
who sees the end from the beginning—
and is always near and ready to re-
veal His power and show us His sal-
vation. Psalms 85 and 105 attest to
this truth. The narratives of Joseph
being sold into slavery, Elijah's des-
pair at the apostasy of his people, and
Peter's (at first) bold attempt to join
the Lord in walking on water illustrate
this truth. And the Romans passage
reminds us that "no one who believes
in Him will be put to shame."*

*Ellen's setting of the "lesser doxology," Gloria Patri, is available in the
music catalog as a lead sheet and
scored for voice and piano accompa-
niment. It is also included in the col-
lection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume
1. You can hear Gloria Patri in the
Audio Media Studio section of the Mu-
sic Room.*

Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/gloria-patri>

*The Gathering reading, for Leader,
congregation (in bold font), and two
groups or individuals, weaves prom-
ises from Psalm 18 in with exhortations
from Psalm 105.*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord,
The Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
How all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

INVOCATION

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

Made Me Glad

I will bless the Lord forever;
I will trust Him at all times.
He has delivered me from all fear;
He has set my feet upon a rock.
And I will not be moved,
And I'll say of the Lord –

Chorus:

You are my Shield, my Strength,
My portion, Deliverer;
My Shelter, Strong Tower,
My very present Help in time of need.

Verse 2:

Whom have I in heaven but You?
There's none I desire beside You.
And You have made me glad,
I'll say of the Lord –

Chorus

CCLI Song #3290709 © 2001 Hillsong Publishing; Miriam Webster

Ellen's setting of Praise to the Lord, the Almighty is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and scored for keyboard (suitable for piano or organ, also). Please see the commentary on this hymn setting for reflections on the text, performance suggestions, and creative ideas for using the hymn verses throughout a worship service. Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/praise-lord-almighty>

Here are a few other song and hymn suggestions for the Gathering and Invocation sections, depending on the specific textual and/or teaching focus of your service:

- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
(Ellen's setting is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet)
<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/mighty-fortress-our-god>
- The Magnificat (John Michael Talbot's version, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord," is a contemporary classic; CCLI Song #14497)
- Total Praise (composed by Richard Smallwood; CCLI Song #2110330)
- The traditional hymn, It Is Well (public domain; words by Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; hymn tune: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1875)

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord, from the epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans:

What does the righteousness that comes from faith say?

**“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” –
that is, the word of faith that we proclaim:**

If we confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord
and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead,
we will be saved.

*For one believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.*

The scripture says,
“No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.”

*For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all
and is generous to all who call on Him.*

**For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.”**

But how are they to call on one
in whom they have not believed?

*And how are they to believe in one
of whom they have never heard?*

And how are they to hear
without someone to proclaim Him?

*And how are they to proclaim Him
unless they are sent?*

As it is written,

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

– from Romans 10:6-15

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*If I regard wickedness in my heart,
the LORD will not hear.*

But certainly God has heard:

He has given heed to the words of my prayer,
and has not turned away His lovingkindness from me.

– from Psalm 66:16-20

[Silence]

**Almighty God, we confess
that we have sinned against you and against others,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.
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.**

*The Profession of Faith is a setting of
the lectionary Epistle text, written for
a solo reader (pastor or other reader)
of the first two lines, for the congrega-
tion reading the bold, and for two
groups or individuals within the con-
gregation.*

*A traditional prayer of repentance
from the Book of Common Prayer.*

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;
O, let me from this day be wholly Thine.

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.
As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee,
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide;
Be Thou my guide....
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

Setting: Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Text: Ray Palmer, 1830. Hymn tune: OLIVET (MASON), Lowell Mason, 1830

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the LORD, who speaks peace to His faithful people,
to those who turn to Him in their hearts:

Those who love Me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know My name.
When they call to Me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

*Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
Righteousness will go before them,
and will make a path for their steps.*

**Surely God's salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that His glory may dwell among us.**

— from Psalm 85:8-13 and 91:14-16

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness

Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer

Jesus, draw me ever nearer
As I labour through the storm.
You have called me to this passage,
And I'll follow though I'm worn.

Chorus:

May this journey bring a blessing,
May I rise on wings of faith;
And at the end of my heart's testing,
With Your likeness let me wake.

Jesus, guide me through the tempest,
Keep my spirit staid and sure.
When the midnight meets the morning,
Let me love You even more.

Chorus

Ellen's setting of this wonderful, traditional hymn of confession is available on request. (email us for details at: clerestorynotes@gmail.com)

At Epiclesis, where I serve as pastor of worship and liturgy, we usually use the time of preparation for the giving of God's tithes and our offerings to share testimonies and stories of things for which we are grateful and where we've particularly seen God at work in our lives (or in the lives of others) throughout the previous week.

Let the treasures of the trial
Form within me as I go.
And at the end of this long passage,
Let me leave them at Your throne.

Chorus

CCLI Song #3552533 ©2002 ThankYou Music | Modern M. Music.
Margaret Becker and Keith Getty.

THE WORD

Genesis 37:1-4,12-29
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

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 (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

Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer is obviously reflective of the Matthew narrative, but also expresses the experiences of Joseph and Elijah, and indeed gives song to the prayer of each of us when we are called to walk through storm or trial.

Additional song suggestions, depending on the teaching focus of your service:

- Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) (A much-loved Hillsong song by Joel Houston, Matt Crocker and Salomon Lightelm; CCLI Song #6428767)
- How Beautiful (by Twila Paris; CCLI Song #443594; particularly resonant with the Romans 10 passage)
- Ancient Words (written by Lynn DeShazo and most familiarly sung recorded by Michael W. Smith; CCLI Song #2986399. This song is also reflective of the Romans 10 passage.)

The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus:

On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.

Verse 2

When darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

Verse 3

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Verse 4

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

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Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1863; Text: Edward More, 1834.

Draw Me Nearer

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain

Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1875. Hymn tune: W. Howard Doane.

I Exalt Thee

For Thou, oh Lord, art high above all the earth;
Thou art exalted far above all gods.
(repeat)

I exalt Thee! I exalt Thee!
I exalt Thee, oh Lord

CCLI Song #17803 ©1977. Pete Sanchez, Jr.

Ellen's setting of The Solid Rock is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet. It is also available in the music collection, Hymn Settings for Worship, Volume 1: Singing the Whole Story of God.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/solid-rock>

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

The Solid Rock (verse 4)

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.

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Benediction

Now, beloved, go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord –
remembering that He is able to keep you from falling
and to present you before His glorious presence
without fault and with great joy!

**To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages,
now and forevermore!**

– based on Jude 24-25

Amen! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“As with the faith of the disciples, we should speak frequently with our Master. For the world is like the sea to us, beloved. We sail on this sea, with our own free will acting like the wind. For we all navigate according to our will. If the Word is our pilot, we enter into rest. But if pleasure takes hold of us, we face the danger of storms and are shipwrecked. For just as the ocean has storms and waves, there are many afflictions and trials in the world. ‘When affliction or persecution ariseth, the unbeliever is offended,’ the Lord said. Because unbelievers aren’t strengthened by the faith and because they favor temporal things, they can’t stand up against difficulties. Like the foolish man’s house built on sand, those without understanding fall under storms of temptation. The saints, however, have exercised their senses to be self-controlled. Because they are strong in faith and understand the Word, they don’t faint under trials. From time to time, ever more powerful trials work against them, yet they continue to be faithful. They wake up the Lord who is with them and are delivered. Because they find relief as they pass through water and fire, they celebrate by offering up thankful prayers to God who has rescued them.” –Athanasius

Lectionary for next week: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

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