

Liturgy

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15A)

GATHERING

Bow Down

Bow down before the Lord,
Worship Him, O worship Him.
Bow down before our God,
Enter in, O enter in.

Consuming fire and sweet perfume,
His awesome presence fills this room.
This is holy ground, so come and bow down.

CCLI Song #1222013 ©1993 Intergrity's Hosanna! Music. David Baroni, Tony Sutherland
(As sung by Paul Morton)

**Let the peoples praise You, O God;
let all the peoples praise You.**

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and cause Your face to shine upon us –
*So that Your ways may be known on the earth,
Your salvation among all nations.*

**Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!**

For the LORD has revealed His righteousness
in the sight of the nations.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**O LORD, there is no God like You
in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants
who walk before You with all their heart.**

Glory in His holy name:

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

Come, let us praise and worship our gracious God!

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 67, 86, 98, 105; 1 Kings 8:23

Let the Peoples Praise

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
You will reign on Mount Zion forevermore.
Shine the light of Your face all over us – King of kings.

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
Fling wide all of the gates, open all of the doors;
Out of Zion You reign, Your glory shines forth – Emmanuel.

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Only One, only One worthy (3x)
Worthy is the Lamb.

Glory to the Righteous One (3x)
From the ends of the earth we hear songs.
(Hallelujah! The Lamb has won).

CCLI Song #4797531 (lyrics) ©2005 Alisha Powell/Forerunner Music; Alisha Powell

LECTIONARY for the twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:

*Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:10-28*

This week marks the twelfth 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 continual guidance and all-sufficient power of the Holy Spirit. In this longest period of the liturgical year, the emphasis of the epistle texts is on the Church—our identity and our living together as Christ’s Body here on earth. The gospel passages, in Year A taken from Matthew’s writings, direct our attention to Christ’s earthly ministry as He interacted with, taught, healed, and met the needs of the people. In Year A, the main Old Testament readings trace the history of the Patriarchs, the Exodus and the forty-year wilderness journey, and the arrival of the Israelites in the Promised Land. 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 the 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 gracious God’s character and mighty acts were commemorated and incorporated into His people’s ancient worship of Him.

The readings for today include the narrative of Joseph’s reconciliation with his brothers; as we read further in Genesis, Joseph reiterates, “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good” (Gen. 50:20). The Romans passage reminds us that the Church is made up of all those who believe, both Jew and Gentile. Isaiah’s prophecy declares the word and

INVOCATION

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

Sung:

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb . . .

Holy, Holy

Holy, holy,
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Holy, holy,
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Who was and is,
And is to come,
Who was and is,
And is to come –

Lift up His name
With the sound of singing,
Lift up His name
In all the earth.
Lift up your voice
And give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

CCLI Song #1540719. ©1995 Thankyou Music. Nathan Fellingham

PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is a trustworthy statement
and worthy of full acceptance:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

God, our Savior, desires all people to be saved
and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**For there is one God,
and one Mediator between God and humankind,
the man Christ Jesus,
who gave Himself as a ransom for all.**

By common confession,
great is the mystery of godliness:

**He was revealed in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.**

– based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 2:4-6, 3:16

promise of the LORD: “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” In Matthew, we read of the faith of the Canaanite woman, considered so unworthy by the Jewish observers, and Jesus’ healing of her daughter. In that passage we also read what was no doubt one of the most controversial things Jesus had thus far said in teaching the crowds: “It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles”—challenging words for that generation, and challenging words still to us.

The song that follows the Gathering antiphonal reading (page 1), Let the Peoples Praise, draws its title and repeated chorus from Psalm 67:3. The sung “Worthy is the Lamb, ...” of the Invocation is a musical phrase from this song, and flows smoothly (both musically and theologically) into the next song, Holy, Holy.

These verses drawn from 1 Timothy are a strong statement of our faith in the saving and powerful Person and Work of Christ, and reflect the themes we are tracing in today’s lectionary. The final section, “By common confession ...,” is thought to be the text of a hymn sung in the ancient church.

This reading is followed by the musical setting of the Apostles’ Creed, We Believe, composed by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend (next page just below).

We Believe (Apostles' Creed)

Chorus

We believe in one true God:
Father, Spirit, Son;
One Church, one faith, one Lord of all;
His kingdom come.

Verse 1

We believe in God the Father,
Almighty Lord of life,
Creator of the Heavens,
The earth, the sea, the sky.
And we believe in Jesus,
The only Son of God,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Who lived as one of us.

Verse 2

We believe that Jesus suffered, was beaten, crucified,
He died and He was buried, entombed in darkest night.
The third day rose victorious, ascended into Heav'n,
Will one day come to judge us, the living and the dead.

Verse 3

We believe in God the Spirit; one church, empow'ered by Him;
Communion of God's people, forgiveness of our sin;
Our bodies resurrected to everlasting life,
To worship, love and wonder before the throne of Christ.

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Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

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 soul.
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 our words only,
but by our lives, 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.

— adapted from a prayer by John Henry Newman

This prayer of confession is a spoken setting adapted 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.

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me, a sinner.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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

The LORD is good to all,
and His compassion is over all that He has made.

*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 145:8-9, 18-21

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness

Meditations:

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth revere Him.

– Psalm 67:5-7

Where have we seen the Kingdom this week?

How has God blessed us? And how have we blessed others?

Holy

I will lift my voice, and I will sing,

I will sing holy, holy.

To my Lord and Savior, my God and King:

I will sing holy, holy

Chorus:

I will praise the Lamb of God

Who sits upon the throne.

I will worship Him,

And give the praise to Him alone.

He who was and is and is to come:

I will sing before His throne forever, forever.

All the angels sing, and they bow down,

And they sing holy, holy.

We, Your sons and daughters, we praise You now:

And we cry holy, holy.

Chorus

Holy, holy

Holy, holy . . .

Donnie McClurkin. ©2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music.

THE WORD

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:10-28

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 (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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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.

Link:

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

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

Link:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and pow'r.

Chorus:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.

Chorus:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh there are ten thousand charms.

Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream.
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him.

Chorus:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.

Chorus:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh there are ten thousand charms.

Lo! th'incarnate God ascended,
Pleads the merit of His blood:
Venture on Him, venture wholly,
Let no other trust intrude.

Chorus:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh there are ten thousand charms.

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Words: Joseph Hart (1759); Tune: RESTORATION, William Walker (1835).

Ellen's setting of this wonderful, early nineteenth-century text and hymn tune is available on request. Key: Dm, modulating to Em, then to Fm. (email us for details at: clerestorynotes@gmail.com)

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Holy, Holy (reprise)

Who was and is, and is to come,
Who was and is, and is to come –

Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

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Benediction

Now, beloved, go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord –
ever mindful of His grace and faithfulness,
and rejoicing that He has called us to walk before Him
with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength.

To the only God our Savior

**be glory, majesty, power, and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages,
now and forevermore!**

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Everyone looks at what we do and not what we say. Scripture says, ‘Thou shalt be a witness unto all men,’ not just to friendly people, but also to unbelievers. For witnesses aren't meant to persuade those who already know, but those who don't know. Let us be trustworthy witnesses. . . . He has sent us to testify of Him. Let us testify and persuade those who need to decide who He is. If we don't testify, then we also have to answer for their mistake. If people wouldn't accept an exceedingly wicked witness in an earthly court, much less would they accept one here when considering such great issues. We say that we have heard Christ and that we believe the things He has promised. Then, they say, show it by your works. For your life testifies of the opposite—that you don't believe. . . . We and not just the martyrs will be witnesses for Christ. They are called martyrs because they endured everything to speak the truth when told to reject the faith. So, we must not be overcome when our passions tell us we are to reject Him.”

– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124;
Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138;
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

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