

Liturgy

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 14, Year B

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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Let us bless the LORD at all times!

Let His praise continually be in our mouths!

**My soul shall make its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad!**

O taste and see that the LORD is good:

How blessed are those who trust in Him!

O magnify the LORD with me,

and let us exalt His name together!

Blessed be the LORD from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen. Praise the LORD!

— from Psalm 34, 106:48

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.

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.

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

2 Samuel 18:5-6, 15, 31-33

Psalms 130

1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalms 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

We are in the midst of the longest season of the Christian year, the period between the Day of Pentecost and the first Sunday of Advent. During this period of “ordinary time,” the Church observes an extended time of study and reflection on the many ways we are led and directed, in every aspect of our lives, by the loving guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

Today’s lectionary invites us to direct our hearts and minds to the ways we live out our lives, both together in community and in our interactions with those outside the Church, as Christ’s body here on earth. The epistle passage has some very specific instructions to us concerning our character and behavior. We who are “members of one another” are to speak truth, control our anger, work honestly, impart grace through our words, put away from us all things that flow from bitterness and malice, and be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving. In these ways, we increasingly become “imitators of God, as [His] beloved children,” living in love just “as Christ loved us.” In 2 Samuel we see David—who so recently had been forgiven of great sin—request his men to deal gently with Absalom, despite the latter’s rebellion and treachery against his father. In the pericope from John 6, the Bread of Life discourse, Jesus rebukes the people for their grumbling and complaining, for they would never come to learn from the Father unless they were willing to open their hearts to accept the Son and His teaching. In the psalms, we see the fruit of lips that magnify the LORD and the blessings of forgiveness, and in 1 Kings we read of the strength and encouragement from a word fitly and graciously spoken.

INVOCATION

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

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's redeeming love.

Hitherto Thy love has blest me,
Thou hast brought me to this place.
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger
Bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2003 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Text: Robert Robinson, 1757. Hymn tune: NETTLETON;
traditional American melody, John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
*God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.*

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

*He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried.*

The third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
*He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.*

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father, and with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

The first portion of the opening song of prayer and praise ("Lord, open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim Your praise") are found in Psalm 51:15.

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 accompaniment. It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You can hear Gloria Patri in the Audio Media Studio section of the Music Room.

Here's the link:

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

Music for Ellen's setting of Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for three-part vocal harmony ("vocals"). See the commentary in the Music Room (Hymn Settings section) for some background on this familiar hymn along with suggestions for use:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/come-thou-fount-every-blessing>

This antiphonal rendering of the Nicene Creed is written for two readers or groups within the congregation, designated by the lines printed in regular and italic font, and the whole congregation (designated by bold font).

The Nicene Creed was originally drafted and adopted by the First Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. to affirm the essential, eternal divinity of Christ. Theologians use the term homoousios to describe and explain the "consubstantial" nature of the Father and the Son: the Greek word means of the same being or essence. The creed was amended by the First Council of Constantinople in 381 to include, mainly, additions and clarifications about the divinity and work of the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. This is the statement of faith we now know as the Nicene Creed, and which declares the essential tenets of the doctrine of the Trinity.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
*Put away falsehood, and let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors,
for we are members one of another.*
Be angry, but do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger,
and do not make room for the devil.
Thieves must give up stealing.
*Rather, they must labor and work honestly with their own hands,
so as to have something to share with the needy.*
Let no evil talk come out of your mouths,
but only what is useful for building up, as there is need,
so that your words may give grace to those who hear.
*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,
by whom you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.*
Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander,
together with all malice.
*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you.* – Ephesians 4:25-5:2

[Silence]

We Confess

Almighty God, we confess our sin;
What we have done, what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with a whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Have mercy, have mercy on us.
Have mercy, have mercy.

Most gracious God, we have lost our way.
Like wand'ring sheep, we have gone astray.
We're truly sorry, and we turn back
Now, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Have mercy, have mercy on us.
Have mercy, have mercy on us.
Have mercy, have mercy.

CCLI Song #6476506 ©2013 Integrity Worship Music. Glenn Packiam and Ian Morgan Cron.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous,
and His ears are open to their cry.

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears,
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
*The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart,
and saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,
and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

– from Psalm 34:15, 17-18, 22

Thanks be to God!

*The epistle reading from Ephesians is
set here for two readers as a Call to
Confession.*

TIME OF OFFERING

Words, stories and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

May the Words of My Mouth

May the words of my mouth
And the thoughts of my heart
Bless Your name,
Bless Your name, Jesus.
And the deeds of the day,
And the truth in my way,
Speak of You,
Speak of You, Jesus.

Chorus

For this is what I'm glad to do;
It's time to live a life of love
That pleases You.
And I will give my all to You,
Surrender everything I have
And follow You.
I'll follow You.

Lord, will You be my vision,
Lord, will You be my Guide?
Be my hope, be my life,
And the Way.
And I'll look not for riches,
Nor praises on the earth,
Only You'll be the first
Of my heart.

Chorus

Bridge

I will follow; I will follow You. (4x)

Chorus

CCLI Song #3232310 ©2000 Thankyou Music. Tim Hughes, Rob Hill.

THE WORD

2 Samuel 18:5-6,15,31-33

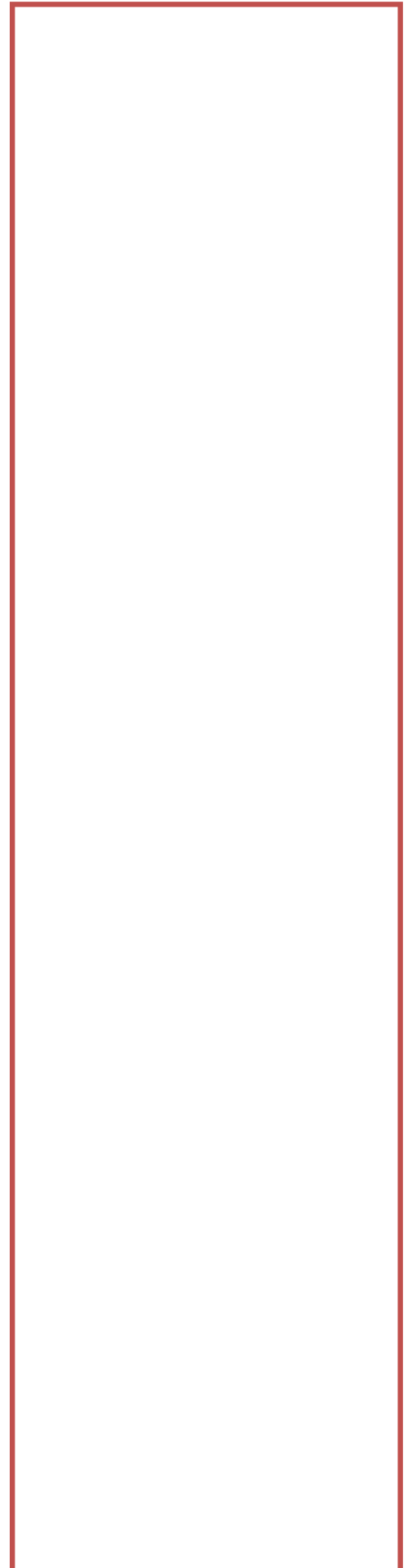
Psalm 130

1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalm 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35,41-51



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!

Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,
Your name is holy, our Father.
Your kingdom come, and Your will be done
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials; save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom, we sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours – Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

Chris Alford and Ellen Koehler.
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How Beautiful

How beautiful the hands that served
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth;
How beautiful the feet that walked
The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.

Chorus:
How beautiful, how beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

Verse 2
How beautiful the heart that bled
That took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes
That chose to forgive and never despise.

Bridge
And as He laid down His life
We offer this sacrifice:
That we will live just as He died,
Willing to pay the price, willing to pay the price.

Verse 3
How beautiful the radiant Bride
Who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes.
How beautiful when humble hearts give
The fruit of pure lives so that others may live.

Verse 4
How beautiful the feet that bring
The sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.

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Music for this setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet, and as a solo/melody line with piano accompaniment on request.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/our-father-heaven>

This contemporary classic song by Twila Paris reflects, in lovely poetic expression, the themes of walking in the love of Christ and living as imitators of God that are woven through this service.

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Doxology

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.

Doxology text from *Fourscore and Seven Psalms of David* (Geneva, 1561),
All People That On Earth Do Dwell, vs. 4, attributed to William Kethe;
doxology tune: *Old 100th*, attrib. to Louis Bourgeois.

Benediction:

Beloved, we go forth in joy and with thankful hearts to love and serve the Lord. And as we daily walk out our baptisms, as God's beloved children may we always be imitators of Him, living in love just as Christ loved us – that we may truly be the image of His holiness in the world.

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 requires two things from us: to condemn ourselves for our sins and to forgive others. The former is for the sake of the latter. For those who consider their own sins are more lenient toward their fellow-servants. It's easier, then, to forgive from the heart and not merely with the lips. Therefore, don't thrust the sword into yourself by being revengeful. For how does the grief you have been afflicted with compare to the ones you will face by remaining angry and bringing on God's condemnation? If you are careful, and keep yourself under control, the evil will come upon the head of your afflictors. They will suffer harm. But if you continue to be indignant and displeased, then you will suffer harm from yourself. . . . See how much you gain by meekly bearing the spite of your enemies. First and greatest, you gain deliverance from sins. Secondly, strength and patience. Thirdly, gentleness and goodness. For those who don't know how to be angry with their afflictors that grieve them will be much readier to serve those that love them. Fourthly, you will always be free from anger. Nothing can equal this. For those who are free from anger are clearly delivered from discouragement too. They won't spend their lives on useless burdens and sorrows. . . . They will enjoy pleasure and ten thousand blessings.”

– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111;
Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14;
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

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