

Liturgy

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 16A)

GATHERING

Bless His Holy Name

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me
Bless His holy name.
(Repeat)

He has done great things,
He has done great things,
He has done great things:
Bless His holy name.

CCLI Song #17566 ©1973 Bud John Songs, Inc.
Andrae Crouch.

Give thanks to the LORD with a whole heart;
tell of all His wonderful works.

**We will be glad and exult in Him;
and sing praises to the name of the Most High.**

Bow down toward His holy temple in worship,
and give thanks to His name
for His steadfast love and faithfulness.

**For He has exalted His name and His word above all things.
On the day I called, He answered me;
He increased the strength of my soul.**

The LORD will fulfill His purpose for us;

**He will not forsake the work of His hands;
His steadfast love endures forever.**

O give thanks to the LORD and sing of His ways,
for great is the glory of the LORD!

— from Psalm 138

LECTIONARY for the thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

On this thirteenth Sunday of “ordinary” time, the longest season of the Christian year, the Church continues its reflection not on the more narrowly focused and shorter seasons (such as Advent or Easter), but on the ways in which God’s people walk, live, and conduct our lives as Christ’s disciples and as His body here on earth. In these weeks, we are following the ways Jesus taught His disciples as He carried out His earthly ministry; the history of our faith and its foundations in the lives of the ancient Patriarchs; the explanation, encouragement and exhortation of our faith and the Church found in the epistle readings; and the insight and comfort of these truths found in the psalm and prophetic passages.

Today’s readings direct our attention to some of the most familiar passages that highlight these truths of the faith. In Matthew we see Peter’s declaration of faith that Jesus is the Messiah—Emmanuel, God with us—the Son of the living God. In the section from his epistle to the Romans, Paul exhorts us to present our whole selves as living sacrifices to God. In the first two chapters of Exodus is found the beginning of the narrative of Moses, who led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt. Psalm 138 is both a song of faith and one of yielded submission and commitment. This psalm is threaded through the liturgy, in the Gathering reading and below, at Assurance. Its text is reflected in several of the songs, especially the opening classic by Andrae Crouch and the following Behold the Lord!

Other choices for the opening song that echo the theme of blessing the Lord for His goodness, greatness,

Behold the Lord

Great and marvelous are Your works,
Oh Lord Almighty.
True and righteous are all Your ways,
King of the ages.
Who will not fear You, oh Lord,
And glorify Your Name?

Chorus

Behold the Lord,
God is my salvation;
In Him I trust
And will not be afraid.
And I will give thanks
And sing among the nations forever;
Behold the Lord, behold the Lord,
Behold the Lord.

So rejoice and be glad in this,
Our God is with us;
Messiah, Emmanuel, Lion of Judah;
Lift up your voice and declare
The glory of our King.

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Paintbrush Music | Lynn DeShazo Music.
Paul Wilbur, Lynn DeShazo, Gary Sadler

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us;
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

CCLI Song #21291 ©1974 Scripture in Song/Maranatha;
Naida Hearn

Fairest Lord Jesus

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man:
Glory and honor, praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677;
Transl. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873.
Music: CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune,
Schleische Volkslieder, 1842.
Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010 Ellen Koehler.

and glory:

- Great Are You, Lord (CCLI Song
#6460220 ©2012 Integrity's Alleluia!
Music | Integrity's Praise! Music |
Open Hands Music | So Essential
Tunes; Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan,
David Leonard)

- Lord, You Are Good (CCLI Song
#3383788 ©2001 Integrity's Praise!
Music; Israel Houghton)

*"I give you thanks, O LORD, with my
whole heart; before the gods I sing
your praise; ... All the kings of the
earth shall praise you, O LORD, ...
they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the LORD."
(Psalm 138: 1-5)*

*We sing these together to close a time
of prayer and praise. Try singing Je-
sus, Name Above All Names twice,
then this final verse of Fairest Lord
Jesus a cappella (the key of D works
well for both).*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord, from Matthew 16:13-18:

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi,

He asked His disciples,

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

And they said,

**“Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah,
and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”**

He said to them,

“But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered,

“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

And Jesus answered him,

“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!

*For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but my Father who is in heaven.*

And I tell you, you are Peter,

and on this rock I will build My church,

and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

To whom shall we go?

You, Lord, have the words of eternal life.

**And we have believed, and have come to know,
that You are the Holy One of God.**

— the words of Peter, in John 6:68-69

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,

King of endless glory.

The Profession of Faith is written as a kind of script. A narrator reads the regular font, a single reader reads the words of Jesus (the italic font), and everyone joins their voices with those of the disciples in reading the words in bold font.

In this final section, the pastor or other worship leader reads the unbolded font, with the congregation speaking these words of faith from John 6.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God,
which is your true and proper, reasonable and spiritual service of worship.

*And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

— Romans 12:1-2

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to You, our God, and before one another,
that we have sinned, in thought, word and deed.**

We have offended Your holiness.

We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We have followed the devices of our own hearts,

and have spurned the promptings of Your Spirit.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

[Silence]

Have mercy on us, Lord.

**Accept our repentance, and accomplish in us the work of Your salvation,
that we may show forth Your glory in the world;
through Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

This prayer of confession is adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, Penitential Order 1, to emphasize aspects of the call to repentance from Romans 12.

There Is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer: Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.

CCLI Song #11483 ©1982 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Pub. Melody Green.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Though the LORD is high and exalted,
yet He regards the lowly;
but the proud and haughty He sees only from afar.

– Psalm 138:6

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous,
and His ears are open to their cry.
He is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves those who have a contrite spirit.

– Psalm 34:15, 18

*For thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy,
"I dwell in the high and holy place,
and with the contrite and lowly of spirit,
in order to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

– Isaiah 57:15

Thanks be to God for His salvation!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness

Jesus. Only Jesus

Who has the pow'r to raise the dead?
Who can save us from our sin?
He is our hope, our righteousness:
Jesus, only Jesus.

Who can make the blind to see?
Who holds the keys that set us free?
He paid it all to bring us peace:
Jesus, only Jesus.

Chorus

Holy King, Almighty Lord;
Saints and angels all adore.
I join with them and bow before
Jesus, only Jesus.

Who can command the highest praise?
Who has the name above all names?
You stand alone; I stand amazed,
Jesus, only Jesus.

This mid-twentieth-century, now-classic song of thanksgiving and faith is not only a fervent expression of the heart's worship, but also a powerful sung statement of repentance and commitment.

An alternative choice for song at Offering: You Are Lord (CCLI Song #3988767 ©2003 Hillsong Publishing by Darlene Zschech and Jennifer Va'a). The bridge lyrics are particularly resonant with today's lections: "You ask me who do I say that You are, and I say that You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Or consider

Chorus

You will command the highest praise,
Yours is the name above all names.
You stand alone; I stand amazed,
Jesus, only Jesus.

CCLI Song #6517269 ©2013 S. D. G. Publishing | sixsteps Music | sixsteps songs |
Sweater Weather Music | Thankyou Music | Worship Together Music | worshiptogether.com songs |
All Essential Music | Songs From Exit 71. Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Kristian Stanfill,
Christy Nockels, Nathan Nockels, Tony Wood.

THE WORD

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124
Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

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!

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Take My Life

Holiness, holiness is what I long for;
Holiness is what I need.
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

Chorus:

So take my heart and form it;
Take my mind, transform it;
Take my will, conform it
To Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

Music for Our Father in Heaven is available in the music catalog (liturgical settings) as a lead sheet. Here's a link:
<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/our-father-heaven>

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, ..."

This sung prayer continues our reflection on the manifold ways in which the truth of Messiah, the Anointed One—God with us—is revealed and manifested in our lives, and what it means to walk continually with the awareness that we are living sacrifices of worship and service.

Verse 2

Faithfulness, faithfulness...

Verse 3

Righteousness, righteousness...

CCLI Song #1617154 ©1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Scott Underwood

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

There Is a Redeemer (verse 3)

When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'till the work on earth is done.

CCLI Song #11483 ©1982 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Pub. Melody Green.

Benediction

Beloved, Jesus Christ is Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Our all-powerful Father in heaven has, in His unlimited grace, revealed Him to us and sealed us through His Spirit.

As He reigns as King and Messiah in our hearts,
may we rejoice in His peace and justice, and live in His love,
as we go forth into the world to love and serve Him.

Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory to God throughout all generations!

Glory to God forever and ever! Amen!

(Eph. 3:21)

Thanks be to God! **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Confess Christ, we will become like Peter. We are considered blessed as he was. Flesh and blood haven't revealed to us that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of the living God, but the Father in heaven has, so that we can be citizens of heaven. This revelation carries to heaven those who unveil their hearts and receive ‘the spirit of the wisdom and revelation’ of God. And if we say like Peter, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,’ not because flesh and blood revealed it to us, but because our heavenly Father's light has shone in our hearts, we become a rock, or a Peter... Christ is the spiritual Rock from whom His people drank and every disciple of Christ is a rock. Every word of the church and its government is built upon every such rock. For the church is built by God through each of the perfect ones who provide blessing through their words, deeds, and thoughts.”

– Origen

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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