

Liturgy

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 15, Year B

GATHERING

Holy Spirit We Now Wait On You

Holy Spirit, we now wait on You;
There is nothing more that we can do.
Send Your power now
And set the captives free.
Holy Spirit, we're waiting on Thee,
Holy Spirit, we're waiting on Thee.

Holy Spirit, we now wait on You;
Lift our hearts, we pray,
And make us new.
A present help, You said
That You would always be.
Holy Spirit, we're waiting on Thee,
Holy Spirit, we're waiting on Thee.

Come, Holy Spirit,
Promise of the Father;
Come, Holy Spirit,
Touch me and my brother.
Let Your sweet fragrance fall;
Cover us, perfume us all.
Holy Spirit, we're waiting on Thee,
Holy Spirit, we're waiting on Thee.

CCLI Song #3383276 ©2002 Harvest Fire Music. Clarence McClendon.

Holy and Awesome Is He (Psalm 111)

Refrain (sung):

Praise the LORD!
I will thank Him with my whole heart.
Bless His Name!
I will delight in His great works.
Honor and majesty, righteous forever;
Holy and awesome is He!

(spoken)

**Great are the works of the LORD;
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of honor and majesty is His work,
and His righteousness endures forever.

*He has gained renown by His wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.*

He provides food for those who fear Him;
He is ever mindful of His covenant.

*He has shown His people the power of His works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.*

Refrain

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

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

This thirteenth Sunday of “ordinary” time brings us nearly to the halfway point in the longest season of the liturgical year. During this approximately six-month-long period after the Day of Pentecost, as we’ve noted, the Church observes an extended season of study and reflection on the ways in which God’s people walk, live, and conduct our lives—under the guidance and enabling of the Holy Spirit—as Christ’s disciples and as His body here on earth. In the past weeks, we’ve pondered the identity and character of the Church, our worship of God, and our behavior in community with one another as His beloved children. In the Old Testament readings we’ve encountered lessons for our faith and life through the narratives of the early kingdom of Israel, in David’s reign and now, in Solomon’s. In the psalms, we see resonances and applications of these themes. And in this fourth of five weeks spent in John chapter 6 (which includes the feeding of the 5,000 and the “Bread of Life discourse”), we’re reminded that our covenant relationship with God encompasses both physical and spiritual dependence and nourishment, both individually and in community. And, because this is a covenantal relationship, there are things required of us as well as blessings bestowed on us.

Today’s readings invite us closely to consider our words and attitudes, and what fills our hearts. How do we—and why should we—speak to one another not only with grace but with wisdom? How does our worship in speech and song not only bring glory to God, but edify ourselves and those around us? And one other question you’ll find threaded through this liturgy: How do we sing and make melody in our

The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy.
*They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.*
He sent redemption to His people.
He has commanded His covenant forever.

**Holy and awesome is His name.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
All those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

Refrain

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INVOCATION

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

All Creatures of Our God and King (verse 6, doxology)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below:
O Praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: St. Francis of Assisi, c. 1225; transl. William H. Draper, 1919.;
Hymn tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN. Peter von Brachel; in
Ausserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

Our faith rests not on human wisdom,
but on the power of God
*This is the power of God:
Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

**We declare the wisdom of God,
a mystery that was hidden
and that God ordained for our glory
from before time began.**

None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had,
they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written:

**“No eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love Him.”
But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.**

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*

**For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things;
To Him be glory forever.**

– from 1 Corinthians 2:1-10 and Romans 11:33, 36

hearts to God at all times, even when circumstances may be challenging, stressful, painful, or unsettling in other ways?

The opening gospel song reflects Paul's instruction in Ephesians 5:18: "Be filled with the Spirit."

Holy and Awesome Is He is available in the music catalog (Psalm Settings) as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano/keyboard accompaniment. It was written as sung responsorial refrain setting of Psalm 111, though it works very nicely with other psalms as well. See the commentary in the Music Room for notes and other psalm suggestions.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-and-awesome-he>

You won't find the passages used in the Profession of Faith in today's lectionary. These are chosen because they are complementary to the specific focus on wisdom found in several of today's readings.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
*Who among you desires life and loves many days,
that you may see good?*
Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit;
turn away from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

– Psalm 34:11-14

[Silence]

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son,
Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him,
our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship
and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ,
our evasion of responsibilities in our service,
our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

– from the Covenant Renewal service of John Wesley

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.

Setting: Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
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 deliverance:

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.

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

He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is His name!

– from Psalms 34:15, 18, 22; 111:9

*The reading from Psalm 34 is set here
for two readers as a Call to Confes-
sion and, below, at Assurance of Par-
don.*

*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. See the com-
mentary in the Music Room
(Liturgical settings) for explanatory
notes on the text, melody and harmon-
ic rhythm of this sung prayer.*

*Agnus Dei (Canticle 20) is available
in the music catalog as a lead sheet
and scored for voice and piano.*

Here's the link in the Music Room :
<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei-canticle-20>

TIME OF OFFERING

Words, stories and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Sweet, Sweet Sound

I am an instrument of the living God,
My life a melody to His name.
More than the songs I sing,
Worship is everything;
I live to glorify my King.

Chorus

Hear the song of my life,
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound,
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound.
I raise this anthem high:
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound,
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound.

Through all the mire and clay,
You're washing me with grace;
You carry me, O Lord, through it all.
So I will testify, even in the fire;
I live to praise my Savior!

Chorus

Bridge

Let everything that has breath
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
And all creation will sing, "Hallelujah!"

Chorus

CCLI Song #5384345 ©2009 Songs from Worship Together | Weima Rhymer Publishing |
Wondrously Made Songs. Sarah Reeves, Ed Cash.

THE WORD

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

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!

*Look for echoes of the epistle reading
in this song of commitment and de-
clarative praise.*

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.**

Yet I Will Praise

I will praise You, Lord, my God;
Even in my brokenness I will praise You, Lord.
I will praise You, Lord, my God;
Even in my desperation I will praise You, Lord.

And I can't understand all that You allow,
I just can't see the reason.
But my life is in Your hands,
And though I cannot see You, I choose to trust You.

Even when my heart is torn, I will praise You, Lord.
Even when I feel deserted, I will praise You, Lord.
Even in the darkest valley, I will praise You, Lord.
And when my world is shatter'd, and it seems all hope is gone
Yet I will praise You, Lord.

I will trust You, Lord, my God;
Even in my loneliness I will trust You, Lord.
I will trust You, Lord, my God;
Even when I cannot hear You I will trust You, Lord.

And I will not forget that You hung on a cross,
Lord, You bled and died for me.
And if I have to suffer I know that You've been there,
And I know that You're here now.

Even when my heart is torn I will trust You, Lord.
Even when I feel deserted I will trust You, Lord.
Even in the darkest valley I will trust You, Lord.
And when my world is shatter'd, and it seems all hope is gone,
Yet I will praise You, Lord.

CCLI Song # 3033258 ©1999 Vineyard Songs Canada; Andy Park

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name.

Chorus:

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say –
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name.

CCLI Song No. 3798438; ©2002 Thankyou Music: Matt Redman and Beth Redman

These two songs give voice to the last of the questions posed above (first page, side comments on the liturgy)—how can we sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord at all times?

Sometimes when we pair these at Epiclesis, we sing the second and fourth verse couplets of Blessed Be Your Name in the same tempo as Yet I Will Praise, then repeat the final chorus of Yet I Will Praise (“Even when my heart is torn, I will trust You, Lord. ...”). Then, the whole of Blessed Be..., usually in a slower tempo than the original. Either way, singing these two songs reminds us and those around us of God’s continual goodness and faithfulness.

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Blessed Be Your Name (reprise)

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say –

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name.

CCLI Song #3798438 ©2002 Thankyou Music: Matt Redman and Beth Redman

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 in the world, as God's beloved children may He guide us ever closer to Him and to one another, in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace, confirming us in His ways, for His glory alone, forever.

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 –

“Preparing the heart means unlearning evil prejudices: It is dusting off the tablet before attempting to write on it. Now solitude is most useful for this purpose. It quiets our passions and makes room for holiness to cut them out of the soul. . . . So then, set aside a place for yourself, separate from contact with other people so that your spiritual exercises won't be interrupted. Pure, devoted exercises nourish the soul with godly thoughts. What can be better than imitating angel choruses on earth, or beginning the day with prayer and honoring our Maker with hymns and songs, or, as the day brightens, praying throughout our duties and seasoning our work with hymns, as with salt? Soothing hymns compose the mind, bringing it into a calm, cheerful state. So then, as I have said, quiet is the first step in our sanctification. It is the tongue that has been purified of the world's gossip. It is the eyes that are unexcited by beautiful color or lovely shape. It is the ear that doesn't relax the tone or mind by sensual songs, nor talk flippantly and joke about people. In this way, the mind is saved from external sensations. It falls back on itself and not on worldly senses. As a result, the mind rises up to contemplating God.” – Basil

Lectionary for next week: 1 Kings 8:1-43; Psalm 84;
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22;
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

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