

Liturgy
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 17A)

GATHERING

Hear O Israel

Hear, O Israel, the people of the Lord:
Be still and know that He is God.
Love the Lord your God
With the fullness of your heart.
With all your mind, your strength and soul.

We draw near through Christ, Who saves us;
We draw near to the throne of grace.

Hear, O Israel, the people of the Lord:
Come, lift your voice and praise your King.

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Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

We are gathered to worship the Lord, to exalt His name,
and to proclaim His story!

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!
*Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise!
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name!*

O give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.

*Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wondrous works.*

Glory in His holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

*Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His presence continually.*

Remember the marvelous works He has done,
His wonders, and the judgments He has uttered.

*For He remembers His covenant forever,
the word which He commanded to a thousand generations.*

**O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You;
I will praise Your name,
for You have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

In the presence of the faithful we proclaim His name, for it is good.
His faithfulness continues through all generations!

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 100, 105, and Isaiah 25:1

LECTIONARY for the fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:

*Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28*

On this fourteenth Sunday of “ordinary” time, we are just past the halfway point of this longest season of the liturgical year. For many people – especially families with school-age children, students of all stages and educational pursuits, teachers and others involved in academic settings, and those who may remember this time of year as back-to-school time – this turn from August to September and the various Labor Day observances signal the end of summer and a return to a more formal (and perhaps more predictable) routine. But for those of us who observe the liturgical year, these weeks are the continuation of the season in which we focus on the ways in which God teaches and leads us, His people, as we walk and live out all aspects of our lives under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

The lectionary this week invites us to reflect deeply on God’s calling to each one of His people, and what it means to embrace His call and follow Him wherever He leads. In Exodus 3, we read Moses’ encounter with the eternal, living I AM in “the bush [that] was blazing, yet it was not consumed.” In Romans, Paul instructs us in our responsibilities and blessings as we live together in community as Christ’s body here on earth. In Matthew’s gospel, we hear Christ’s admonition that if any want to become His followers, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Him. The Psalms and Jeremiah passages resound with prayer and praise as we follow this journey as His disciples.

The main thematic focus of this sample liturgy takes its cue from the Exo-

Bless God

Blessed are those who run to Him,
Who place their hope and confidence in Jesus.
He won't forsake them.
Blessed are those who seek His face,
Who bend their knee and fix their gaze on Jesus.
They won't be shaken.

Chorus 1

Come on and praise the Lord with me; sing if you love His name.
Come on and lift your voice with me; He's worthy of all our praise.

Blessed are those who walk with Him,
Whose hearts are set on pilgrimage with Jesus.
They'll see His glory.
Blessed are those who die to live,
Whose joy it is to give it all for Jesus
And for Him only. Oh, Jesus, all for Your glory.

Chorus 2

Come on and praise the Lord with me; sing if you love His name.
Come on and lift your voice with me; He's worthy of all our praise.
Come on and bring your offering; sing if you've known His grace.
Come on and lift up your holy hands. He's worthy of all our praise.

Bridge

Bless God in the sanctuary; bless God in the fields of plenty.
Bless God in the darkest valley. every chance I get, I bless Your name.

Bless God when my hands are empty.
Bless God with a praise that costs me.
Bless God when nobody's watching.
Every chance I get, I bless Your name.

Bless God when the weapon's forming.
Bless God when the walls are falling.
Bless God, 'cause He goes before me.
Every chance I get, I bless Your name.

Bless God for He holds the vict'ry;
Bless God for He's always with me.
Bless God for He's always worthy.
Every chance I get, I bless Your name. (repeat)

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INVOCATION

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

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in Heaven above adore Thee;
Infinite Thy vast domain, everlasting is Thy reign.

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;
While in essence only One, undivided God we claim Thee;
And adoring bend the knee, while we own the mystery.

Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; transl. Clarence A. Walworth. Hymn tune: TE DEUM

dus passage: When God reveals Himself to us (the theological term for this is 'theophany'), our response is one of recognizing His holiness and listening to His voice. The narrative of Moses' encounter with the great I AM in Exodus is one of the earliest examples of the biblical pattern of worship, of "revelation and response." We respond in worship to God's revelation of Himself to us.

Music for Ellen's setting of Holy God, We Praise Thy Name is available in the Hymn Settings section of the music catalog as a lead sheet. (It is also available as vocal line with piano accompaniment and as a choral arrangement by request.) This hymn is one whose verses may be chosen and used as doxologies in a variety of contexts.

Here, the final sung line is a wonderful transition point from Invocation to Profession of Faith, where we focus on the mystery of the triune God and the Person and Work of each member of the Trinity.

Here's a link to the commentary and sample lead sheet in the Music Room:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-god-we-praise-thy-name>

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended to heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**
Amen.

- the Apostles' Creed

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house,
and the place where Your glory dwells.
*Examine me, O LORD, and try me;
test my mind and my heart.
For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes.*

— Psalm 26:2, 3, 8

[Silence]

Most loving and merciful God, we pray together:
**Teach us to know You,
and enable us to do Your will as we ought to do.**

[Pause]

**Give us hearts to love You,
to trust and delight in You,
and to adhere and cleave in faithfulness unto You —**

[Pause]

**that no temptations may draw us,
nor any tribulations drive us, from You;
but that all Your dispensations to us,
and all Your dealings with us,
may be the messengers of Your love to our souls,
to bring us still nearer to Your blessed self,
and to make us still fitter for Your heavenly kingdom.**
Amen.

(from a prayer by Benjamin Jenks,
English churchman, 1646-1724)

Purify My Heart

Purify my heart. Touch me with Your cleansing fire;
Take me to the cross; Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe Your life in me,
Kindle a love that flows from Your throne.
Oh, purify my heart. Purify my heart.

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The Apostles Creed is perhaps the earliest of the compiled statements of essential doctrines of the Christian faith, codified in the early fourth century A.D. In its earliest form, it likely dates back to the middle of the second century. It has been in regular use in the liturgy since the eighth century. In the ancient church, catechumens preparing for baptism were required to memorize the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer as both foundational to their faith and as necessary for spiritual warfare. Many churches still today require the same memorization as part of the study of catechism or for those preparing for Confirmation.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's covenant promise to His people:

If they repent, I will restore them
that they may serve Me and stand before Me.

*I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds.*

I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

And they shall all know Me,
for I will forgive their iniquity,
and remember their sins no more.

— from Jeremiah 15:19 and 31:33-34

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness

My Life Is An Offering

This life is an altar where I want to offer
My soul, and my mind and strength.
Cleansed by Your mercy to live a life worthy
Of the One who called my name.

Chorus

Jesus, be glorified; Jesus, be magnified.
Let me be a pleasing sacrifice.
Jesus, be glorified; Jesus, be magnified.
Here at the altar, my life is an offering.

How could I not love You?
You authored my rescue,
Raised me up from death to life.
Your Spirit is in me,
Revealing Your glory;
Oh, what joy as I give my life!

Bridge

I choose to lose my life, Lord, and find it in You.

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THE WORD

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

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!

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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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.

Bridge

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

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

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

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 into the world in joy to love and serve the Lord,
strengthened and equipped by worship that sings, prays, preaches
and enacts the whole story of God.

Amen.

And now, Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ
is the light of the world: Grant that Your people,
illumined by Your word and Table,
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory,
that He may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Courage and confidence are our weapons to deflect the enemy's surprise attacks. Hope and patience are the staffs to lean on when we are worn out by worldly trials. And we must stock up on sorrow and be ready to apply it, if need be, when we repent of our sins. At the same time, we must believe that it is only useful for serving our repentance. Righteousness will be our straightedge ruler, guarding us from stumbling in word or action, guiding us how to use our spiritual abilities, and teaching us to be considerate towards everyone we meet.... But someone who doesn't properly use the spiritual abilities, but uses them for opposite reasons... is inexpressibly strange and unnatural. Imagine someone putting on his armor the wrong way: reversing the helmet so that it covers his face, putting his feet into the breastplate, fitting the shin guards onto his chest, putting everything on the right side belongs to the left and vice versa. How would such a soldier be likely to fare in battle? So then, this gives us an idea of the fate awaiting those who use their spiritual abilities contrary to their proper use.”

– Gregory of Nyssa

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149;
Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

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