

Liturgy

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 16, Year B

GATHERING

Who is like You, O LORD –
majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises,
working wonders?

**The LORD is my strength and song;
He has become my salvation.**

Who is like You, O LORD –
majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises,
working wonders?

**Your faithfulness surrounds You, O God;
Your steadfast love is established forever.
Your faithfulness continues through all generations!**

One generation shall praise Your works to another,
and shall declare Your mighty acts.

**They shall celebrate the fame of Your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.**

All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,
and all Your faithful shall bless You.

**They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,
and tell of Your power,
to make known to the children of men
Your mighty acts and the glorious splendor
of Your kingdom.**

Who is like You, O LORD –
majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises,
working wonders?

**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 great and mighty God!

- Scripture weaving from Exodus 15,
Psalms 89 and 145, and 1 Kings 8:23

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

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

On this fourteenth Sunday of “ordinary” time, we are in the midst of the longest season of the Christian year, the season after Pentecost. For many people—especially families with school age children, students of all stages and educational pursuits, teachers and other involved in academic settings, and those who may remember this time of year as back-to-school season—this turn from August to September, with a view to Labor Day observances and celebrations, signals the end of summer and a return to a more formal (and perhaps 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 way 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.

During the past several weeks, our reflection and study has been focused on the identity, character, worship and inter-relationships of the body of Christ. The Ephesians passages, in particular, have addressed the unity of the Church, through description and metaphor as well as direct teaching, and the ministries of the body of Christ, both internally within community, and externally in the world. Paul closes his epistle to the Ephesians with the well-known admonition that we—both individually and corporately—can only be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might by putting on the whole armor of God.

This sample liturgy focuses on importance and implications of our clothing ourselves with the armor of God—that He Himself has provided—

Oh, the Lord, Our Strength and Song (Song of Moses)

Oh, the Lord, our strength and song;
Highest praise to Him belongs.
Christ, the Lord, the conquering King;
Your name we raise, Your triumphs sing.

Chorus

Praise the Lord, our mighty warrior;
Praise the Lord, the glorious One;
By His hand we stand in victory,
By His name we overcome.

Verse 2:

Though the storms of hell pursue
In darkest night we worship You.
You divide the raging sea;
From death to life You safely lead.

Verse 3:

All the saints and angels bow,
Hosts of heaven crying out,
“Glory, glory to the King.
You reign for all eternity.”

Bridge:

The Lord shall reign forever and ever. (repeat)

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Aaron Keys, Ben Smith, Chris Moerman, Graham Kendrick, Pat Barrett.

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.

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

that we may walk both faithfully and courageously as His body in the world. As we look at the other lections, we find important and complementary lessons. In Joshua, we read the account of his final words as he reminded the Israelites that it was only through the power, authority and leadership of the LORD God that they had been victorious in realizing and walking in His promises. In 1 Kings similarly, as Solomon dedicates the Temple and the ark is brought to its place, he recounts the mighty deeds of the LORD and, with thankfulness, praises Him for His steadfast love in keeping His covenant with His people and making His name known throughout the earth. And in John’s gospel, as we also come to the end of the Bread of Life discourse, we see (among so many other truths) that we must cling to Christ, abiding in Him, taking our nourishment and all sustenance from Him, for only in that way can we live, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, follow Him—the One whose “words are spirit and life” (Jn 6:63).

The declarative anthem, Oh, the Lord, Our Strength and Song, is a wonderful sung statement of the triumph of Christus Victor—Christ, the glorious, conquering King, in whose name and by whose power we also stand in victory. This should also remind us that we take up the whole armor of God so that we may stand firm (Eph 6:13).

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. See the commentary and sample lead sheet in the Music Room here:
<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-god-we-praise-thy-name>

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

As you received Christ Jesus the Lord,
so walk in Him, firmly rooted and built up in Him
and established in the faith, just as you were instructed,
and overflowing with gratitude.

**In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
and we have been made complete in Him,
who is the head of all rule and authority,
and principality and power.**

In Him we also were circumcised with a circumcision
made without hands,
in the removal of the body of the flesh
by the circumcision of Christ.

**We were buried with Him in baptism,
in which we also were raised with Him
through faith in the working of God,
who raised Him from the dead.**

When we were dead in our sins
and in the uncircumcision of our flesh,
God made us alive together with Christ.

**He forgave us all our transgressions,
having cancelled out the certificate of debt against us
with its legal demands, which was hostile to us.
He set this aside, having nailed it to the cross.**

When He disarmed the rulers and authorities,
He made a public display of them,
having triumphed over them through Him.

**We hold fast to the Head, Christ Jesus the Lord,
from whom the entire body,
being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments,
grows with a growth which is from God.**

– from Colossians 2:6-19

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*For though the Lord is exalted, yet He regards the lowly,
but the proud He knows from afar.*

– Psalm 138:6

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

– Psalm 51:17

Most holy and merciful God: **We confess to You and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved others as You have loved us.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.**

[Silence]

This Scripturally based profession of faith draws from a parallel passage in Paul's epistle to the Colossians. Here we declare Christ's victory over principalities, powers, rulers and authorities—especially as we remember Paul's admonition that “our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph 6:11 NRSV).

The prayer of confession is taken from the traditional Ash Wednesday litany of penitence (Book of Common Prayer).

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.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. (repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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

How blessed are those who trust in You.

They go from strength to strength.

Every one of them appears before God in Zion.

– from Psalms 34:15-22, 84:7 12

Blessed be the LORD,

because He has heard the voice of my supplications and my cry for mercy!

The LORD is my strength and my shield;

My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.

Therefore my heart exults, and with my song I shall thank Him.

– Psalm 28:6-7

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for my fight,
Thou my whole armor, and Thou my true might.
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower.
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

This setting of Agnus Dei is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You may hear Agnus Dei in the Audio Media Studio.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei>

Ellen's setting of Be Thou My Vision is available in the Music Catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet, and scored for piano and/or keyboard (on request).

Be sure to read the commentary on this hymn in the Music Room for instrumental suggestions, interesting historical background and suggestions for other usages in worship services.

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/be-thou-my-vision>

We sing the first four verses here, at Offering, and the fifth at Sending (below).

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance now and always.
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

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Ancient Irish hymn text. Hymn tune: SLANE.
Transl. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

THE WORD

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

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 in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)

Eric Wyse's setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available at Score Exchange (<http://www.scoreexchange.com/scores/19379.html>)

O Church Arise

O church arise and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is Love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure;
And Christ will have the prize for which He died:
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit come, put strength in every stride;
Give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory.

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Keith Getty | Stuart Townend.

King of Wisdom and Light

Holy, holy, holy,
God of power and might:
Heaven is filled with Your glory,
King of wisdom and light.

We worship You, we praise You,
God Most High;
We worship You, we praise You,
King and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Jim Cowan



SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Be Thou My Vision (verse 5)

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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Ancient Irish hymn text. Hymn tune: SLANE.
Transl. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

Benediction:

O God, as You send us forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
remind us continually that Christus Victor reigns!
He has triumphed over death, disarmed the powers and principalities,
and is seated at the right hand of God, far above all rule and authority
and power and dominion, and every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come.

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 –

“Behold a great and noble battle with the glorious reward of a heavenly crown. In so far as God observes us as we struggle and watches over those He has stooped to make His sons, He enjoys the spectacle of our contest. God watches us fight for our faith. His angels watch us, and Christ watches us. How great is the dignity, joy, and glory of competing and being crowned in the presence of God with Christ as the Judge! Beloved, let us be armed with our whole strength and let us be prepared for the struggle with uncorrupted minds, solid faith, and devoted courage. Let the army of God march forward to the appointed battle-field. Let the stable ones be armed, lest they be defeated. Let the backsliders also be armed, so that even they might regain what they lost. Let honor motivate all.”

– Cyprian

Lectionary for next week: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9;
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15;
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

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