

Liturgy

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 18A)

GATHERING

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
His praise in the assembly of the faithful.

**Let Israel be glad in their Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!**

Let them praise His name with dancing,
let them make melody to Him
with instruments and song!

**For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;
He adorns the humble with victory.**

Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy and be glad!

My heart is steadfast, O God!

I will sing and make melody with all my being!

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great above the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!

Let your glory be over all the earth!

— from Psalms 149:1-6 and 108:1-5

Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before You,
Opening to the sun above.
(Repeat)

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.

Chorus

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
Hearts unfold like flowers before You,
Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
Joyful, we adore You!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your ways;
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;

Chorus

Bridge

God our Father, Christ our Brother;
All who live in love are Thine.
Teach us how to love each other;
Lift us to the joy divine.

*LECTIONARY for the fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost, Year A:*

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

*On this fifteenth Sunday of
“ordinary” (or “proper”) time, the
long liturgical season after the Day of
Pentecost, the Church continues its
extended time of study and reflection
on the ways in which we, God’s peo-
ple, walk and live in all aspects of our
lives through the guidance, power and
presence of the Holy Spirit.*

*Today’s lectionary invites us to direct
our hearts and minds to the ways we
live out our lives together in commu-
nity as Christ’s body on earth—and
the reasons for the many blessings we
experience because of that communi-
ty, as well as the responsibilities we
hold to one another because we are
one in the love of Christ. In the Exo-
dus passage we read God’s instruc-
tions to His people for celebrating the
first Passover feast as preparation for
His deliverance of them from their
bondage in Egypt. Observing it, God
said, was to be a perpetual ordinance
for them throughout their generations
(and, by extension, for us). Psalm 149
celebrates the blessings of deliver-
ance, while the other readings instruct
us as to how we ought to live together
and treat one another as redeemed
and delivered people of God. Viewing
Matthew 18 through this lens is par-
ticularly interesting, inspiring, and
challenging. In that chapter, we read
not only Christ’s familiar and encour-
aging words, “where two or three are
gathered together in My name, there
am I in the midst” (which is included
in the lectionary’s short gospel pas-
sage). We also see the disciples’ con-
cerns about who would be the greatest
in the kingdom of heaven; Christ ex-
plaining that we all must become like
little children, which requires both
humility and a complete conversion*

Chorus 2

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
Hearts unfold like flowers before You,
Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
Hearts unfold like flowers before You,

Bridge

CCLI Song #5574629. Original words: Henry J. van Dyke, 1907; Hymn tune: HYMN TO JOY, from the Ninth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven, adapted by Edward Hodges, 1824.
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INVOCATION

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Christ, to Thee with God the Fa*-ther,
And, O Holy Ghost*, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiv*-ing,
And unwearied prai*-ses be:
Honor, glory, and domin*-ion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore*.
A*-men.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2015 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century;
transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker.
Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11th century.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

God, who is rich in mercy,
because of His great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
*He made us alive together with Christ –
for by grace we were saved.*

**We were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified
in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**

When the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior appeared,
He saved us –

*Not because of any works of righteousness that we had done,
but according to His mercy,
through the washing of regeneration and renewal
by the Holy Spirit.*

**This Spirit He poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by His grace,
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

This is a trustworthy statement.

– Ephesians 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Titus 3:4-8a

Thanks be to God!

of heart and mind; His exhortation on sin and stumbling blocks; His comforting words that the Shepherd diligently searches for the one sheep out of a hundred who strays, because it is not the Father's will that any of His little ones should perish; — and an abundance of teaching on forgiveness. When we remember that not long before this teaching and exhortation was the Transfiguration (Mt. 17) when Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus and, as we are told in Luke 9, they spoke with Him of His departure—His exodus—which He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem, and that after this time Jesus resolutely set His face to go to Jerusalem, the words of Matthew 18 take on an added weight and urgency.

The main focus of this sample liturgy is on the whole of Matthew 18 and on Paul's reminders in Romans 13 that we are commanded to love one another, because love is the fulfillment of the law.

Music for Ellen's setting of the ancient hymn, Of the Father's Love Begotten, is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and as a sung response or doxology with melody line, chord chart and scored keyboard or organ part. We use the doxological verse of the hymn to close our time of corporate prayer. For ease of congregational singing, asterisks indicate syllables that are sung with more than one melodic note.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/fathers-love-begotten>

You may also hear a live recording of Of the Father's Love Begotten in the Audio Media Studio.

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/fathers-love-begotten-clip

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

What does the LORD your God require of you,
but to fear the LORD your God,
to walk in all His ways,
to love Him,
to serve the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul,
and to keep the LORD's commandments and statutes?

*So owe nothing to anyone except to love one another;
for those who love their neighbors have fulfilled the law.*

For all of the commandments are summed up in this word,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

*Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.*

And this do, knowing that it is already the time
for us to awaken from sleep;
for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.

The night is almost gone; the day is near.

Let us therefore lay aside the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.

— Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Romans 13:8-12

[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.

[Silence]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord:
Once you were darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Walk as children of light,
learning what is pleasing to the Lord.

*If we walk in the light, as He is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*

— Ephesians 5:8,10; 1 John 1:7

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness

You Are the Light

We are the people of God,
The sons and the daughters of love.
Forgiven, restored and redeemed,
We're living our lives to the praise of our King.

We are the ones who will shine
His light in the darkness of night.
The hopeless, the broken, the poor,
They will be hopeless and broken no more.

Chorus

You are the light, the light of the world,
And we shine You, Lord.
You are the light, the light of the world,
And we shine You, Lord.

Bridge

We shine like stars in the universe,
Proclaiming the hope of our God.
To the sons and daughters in all the earth,
We shine You, Lord.

To the lost and the broken,
The hurting and hopeless,
We shine You, Lord.
To the ones who are weary,
The burdened and the suffering,
We shine You, Lord.

CCLI Song #4939849 ©2007 sixsteps Songs | Worship Together Music. Steve Fee.

THE WORD

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

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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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.

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.

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.

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.

CCLI Song #443594. © 1990 Ariose Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

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>

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

You Are the Light (chorus)

You are the light, the light of the world,
And we shine You, Lord.
You are the light, the light of the world,
And we shine You, Lord.

CCLI Song #4939849 ©2007 sixsteps Songs | Worship Together Music. Steve Fee.

Benediction

Now, beloved, let us pray this together,
as we prepare to leave this place:

May the love of God enfold us.
May the grace of God uphold us.
May the power of God enable
us as we go forth into the world
to love and serve the Lord.

Now to God, who by the means of the power working in us
is able to do so much more than we can ask or even think,
to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all times,
for ever and ever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“He who is both the Lord and most indulgent Parent promises that He will forgive the sins of the repentant. He will blot out all the iniquities of those who begin afresh practicing righteousness. For former uprightness is no use to those who live badly. The subsequent wickedness has destroyed their righteous works. In the same way, former sins don't stand in the way of those who have corrected their lives because the subsequent righteousness has erased the stain of their former lives. Those who repent of what they have done understand their former errors. Regarding this, the Greeks speak better and more significantly of metanoia, which we may speak of as a return to right understanding. Those who return to a right understanding and rescue their minds from madness, who grieve over their errors and rebuke themselves for madness, and commit their minds to a better course of life are guarded against being led into the same snares again. In short, even when dumb animals are ensnared by trickery but have untangled themselves and escaped, they become more cautious in the future. They will always avoid the things in which they have seen tricks, wiles, and snares. Therefore, repentance makes us cautious and diligent to avoid the faults which we once were tricked into.”

– Lactanius

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 14:19-31, 15:1b-11, 20-21; Psalm 114;
Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

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