

*Liturgy*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 17, Year B

GATHERING

*Bow Down*

Bow down before the Lord,  
Worship Him, O worship Him.  
Bow down before our God,  
Enter in, O enter in.  
Consuming fire and sweet perfume,  
His awesome presence fills this room.  
This is holy ground,  
So come and bow down.

Holy, holy,  
Holy Lord of hosts;  
Saints and angels give You glory  
Now and forevermore.

CCLI Song #1222013 ©1993 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.  
David Baroni, Tony Sutherland

Our hearts are overflowing with a good theme;  
we address our verses to the King;  
our tongues are the pens of ready writers!

**O Mighty One, You are clothed in splendor and majesty!  
Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.**

You love righteousness and hate wickedness.

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

**We will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;  
therefore the peoples will give You thanks forever and ever.**

— from Psalm 45

*Our Great God*

Eternal God, unchanging,  
Mysterious and unknown;  
Your boundless love, unfailing,  
Grace and mercy shown.  
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight  
Around Your glorious throne;  
They raise their voices day and night  
In praise to You alone.

*Chorus:*

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!  
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail,  
Helpless in the storm.  
Surround us with Your angels,  
Hold us in Your arms.  
Our cold and ruthless enemy,  
His pleasure is our harm.  
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee  
Before our sov'reign God.

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

*Song of Solomon 2:8-13*

*Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9*

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

*Psalms 15*

*James 1:17-27*

*Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

*On this fifteenth Sunday after the Day of Pentecost, we—the Church—continue our study of and reflection on the many ways we are led and directed, in every aspect of our lives, by the loving guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. With this week, and continuing for the next four Sundays, we focus on what might be called matters of practical living. The epistle of James emphasizes the living out of our faith by our walk in the world. The Old Testament passages discuss the importance and life-giving power of wise living, how we learn and incorporate Godly wisdom into our lives, and the consequences of rejecting the gift of Godly wisdom. In the passages from Mark's gospel are recorded examples of Godly living and acting in the world in the life of Christ, who is the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24, 30).*

*Today, our attention is turned to the ways in which we perceive and know the voice of God. And just as importantly, what do we do with the messages He communicates to us? James encourages us in his reminder that it was in fulfillment of God's own purpose for us that He gave us birth by the word of truth. James exhorts us to be quick to listen, and—having heard the word—we must be effectual doers of the word, not merely forgetful hearers. In this way, Deuteronomy says, you “will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples...”*

*Lord, make our ears attuned and alert to the sound of Your voice (Song 2:8)! May our hearts overflow with the “goodly theme[s]” we have heard! And may our tongues and lives ever be as the pens of ready writers, eager to proclaim and display Your grace and wisdom.*

## Chorus

Let ev'ry creature in the sea  
And ev'ry flying bird,  
Let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry field  
And valley of the earth;  
Let all the moons and all the stars  
In all the universe  
Sing praises to the living God  
Who rules them by His Word.

## Chorus

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Mac Powell and Fernando Ortega.

## INVOCATION

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

### *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent;  
Every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore.

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

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who according to His great mercy  
has caused us to be born again to a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

In fulfillment of His own purpose  
He gave us birth by the word of truth,  
so that we could become a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

*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,*

And raised us up together with Him,  
and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

*So that in the ages to come  
He might show the surpassing riches of His grace  
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

For by grace we have been saved through faith;  
and that not of ourselves;

*It is the gift of God,  
not of works so that no one may boast.*

**For we are His workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them.**

– from 1 Peter 1:3; James 1:18; Ephesians 2:4-10

*Music for this 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.*

*For the 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/musie\\_library/fathers-love-begotten-clip](https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/musie_library/fathers-love-begotten-clip)

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle,  
and who may dwell on Your holy hill?

Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
Whose walk is blameless, who do what is righteous;

[Silence]

*Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.*

O LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle,  
and who may dwell on Your holy hill?

*Those who speak the truth from their hearts,  
Who do no wrong to a neighbor.*

[Silence]

*Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.*

O LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle,  
and who may dwell on Your holy hill?

Those who honor those who fear the LORD.

[Silence]

*Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.*

*They shall receive a blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of their salvation;  
they will never be shaken.*

This is the generation of those who seek Him,  
of those who seek Your face, O God.

– from Psalms 15 and 24

*The Jesus Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
Have mercy on me, a sinner.  
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, beloved, and hear this good news  
of God's forgiveness and pardon:

There is therefore now no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus  
has set us free from the law of sin and death.

*Those who look intently at the perfect law,  
the law of liberty, and abide in it,  
not having become forgetful hearers but effectual doers,  
these will be blessed in what they do.*

– Romans 8:1-2, James 1:25

**Thanks be to God!**

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

**Lord, every good and perfect gift comes from You;  
all we have, and all we are, are gifts from Your gracious hand.  
Accept, we pray, our offerings and ourselves as expressions  
of our worship and thankfulness.**

*Open My Eyes That I May See*

Open my eyes that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine.

Open my ears that I may hear  
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
Everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine.

Open my mouth and let me bear  
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my heart, illumine me,  
Spirit divine.

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THE WORD

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

*Ellen's setting of Open My Eyes That  
I May See is available as a lead sheet  
and scored for piano and voice on  
request. (Email us at  
clerestorynotes@gmail.com)*

## 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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### *Psalm 19*

May the words of my mouth,  
And the meditations of my heart  
Be pleasing to You, pleasing to You.  
(repeat)

#### *Chorus:*

You're my Rock and my Redeemer,  
You're the reason that I sing;  
I desire to be a blessing in Your eyes.  
Ev'ry hour, ev'ry moment,  
Lord, I want to be Your servant;  
I desire to be a blessing in Your eyes  
In Your eyes.

#### *Ending:*

May the words of my mouth,  
And the meditations of my heart  
Be pleasing to You, my God.

CCLI Song #1773823 ©1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing; Terry Butler

*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](https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip)

SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*Our Great God (reprise chorus)*

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!  
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

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Mac Powell and Fernando Ortega

Benediction:

Beloved, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,  
may our ears and hearts be ever attentive,  
attuned and responsive to His voice;  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth His praise –  
as faithful doers of the word and not forgetful hearers –  
walking in His ways all our days.

**Amen!**

Now to the only God our Savior  
be glory, majesty, power, and authority,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“When we pray let our words and requests be disciplined, maintaining quietness and modesty. Let us consider ourselves as standing in God's sight. We must please the divine eyes both with the use of our body and with the tone of our voice. For, as it is characteristic for a shameless person to be noisy with his cries, it is fitting for the modest man to pray with calm requests. Moreover, the Lord told us to pray in secret, which is best suited to faith—in hidden and remote places and in our very bedrooms. Then we can know that God is present everywhere and hears and sees everything. In His abundant majesty, He enters even into hidden and secret places. It is written, ‘I am a God at hand, and not a God afar off. If a man shall hide himself in secret places, shall I not then see him? Do not I fill heaven and earth?’ And again: ‘The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.’ When we meet with believers in one place and celebrate God's sacrifice with Christ, His Priest, we should be modest and disciplined. We shouldn't throw about our prayers indiscriminately with untamed voices, nor cast a request to God with overbearing wordiness when it should be mentioned modestly. For God isn't the hearer of the voice, but of the heart.”

– Cyprian

**Lectionary for next week:** Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125;  
Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146;  
James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

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