

Liturgy

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 19A)

GATHERING

Ancient of Days

Blessing and honor, glory and power,
Be unto the Ancient of Days.
From ev'ry nation, all of creation,
Bow before the Ancient of Days.
Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne in worship;
You will be exalted, O God,
And Your kingdom shall not pass away, O Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth;
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.
For none can compare to Your matchless worth;
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

CCLI Song #798108 ©1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music;
Words and Music by Gary Sadler and Jamie Harvill

Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

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.

The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

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

He is the God who works wonders,

And He has displayed His might among the peoples.

Remember the deeds of the LORD, and meditate on all His work,
For He is great, and His way is holy.

His way was through the sea, His path through the mighty waters;

**His footprints were unseen, yet He led His people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

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

This is my God, and I will praise Him;

this is our God; we will exalt Him!

– from Exodus 15, Psalms 118 and 77

LECTIONARY for the sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:

Exodus 14:19-31, 15:1b-11, 20-21

Psalms 114

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:1-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

This sixteenth Sunday after the Day of Pentecost continues the longest season of the liturgical year (“ordinary” or “proper” time) during which we, the Church, focus our study 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.

Today's lectionary contains one of the most pictorial and spectacular examples of God's close attention and guidance for His people in all of Scripture: After the institution and first celebration of the Passover feast and God's dramatic deliverance of His people from their bondage, through the death of all the firstborn throughout the land of Egypt of all those who had not sprinkled the blood of the Passover lamb over their doorposts, “the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.” (Ex. 13:21-22) Exodus 14 records God's leading and the Israelites' deliverance from Pharaoh's pursuing army in the parting of the Red Sea and the people's awe, belief, and praise at His awesome power and goodness to them.

The gospel and epistle readings continue the theme of our living together in community, a depiction of what a lifestyle of forgiveness looks like, and our understanding that we do not live for ourselves, nor do we die for ourselves, but we belong to the Lord.

This sample liturgy focuses most specifically on the Exodus passages, with

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)

CCLI Song #5880942 ©Barrett Daddy Music, Flock Street Music, Itisreal Music.Com,
ThankYou Music, worshiptogether.com songs, Make Way Music.
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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2012 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; based on the fourth-century hymn text, *Te Deum*.
Transl. Clarence A. Walworth. Hymn tune: GROSSER GOTT.

*other readings, from the lectionary
and other Scriptures, to complement
this chapter of the whole story of God.*

*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 ac-
companiment and as a choral ar-
rangement by request.) This hymn is
one whose verses may be chosen and
used as doxologies in a variety of con-
texts or, as below, sung as a prayer of
confession.*

Here’s the link:

<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 this creed of the ancient church:

The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications.
Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness!
Teach me the way in which I should walk, for to You I lift up my soul.
Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit
lead me into a level country and into the land of uprightness.

— Psalm 143:1, 8b, 10 (NASB, Amp.)

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Spare Thy people, Lord, we pray,
By a thousand snares surrounded:
Keep us without sin today,
Never let us be confounded.
Lo, I put my trust in Thee;
Never, Lord, abandon me.

Most merciful God,
**You have shown us the way of life through Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Yet too often we have strayed from Your way.
We confess that we have sinned against You 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;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

[Silence]

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
In Your mercy, forgive us and raise us from sin
that we may be Your faithful people,
delighting in Your will and walking in Your ways,
to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

This simple, traditional prayer of confession and repentance is adapted from The Book of Common Prayer, Morning Prayer, rite two. A useful and user-friendly resource is The (Online) Book of Common Prayer [www.bcponline.org]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Bless the Lord (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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(spoken)

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all His benefits –*

**Who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live,
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

– Psalm 103:1-5

Refrain

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will He keep His anger forever.

*He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.*

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far He removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for His children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear Him.**

– Psalm 103:8-13

Refrain

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and testimonies of God's faithfulness

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 responsorial Assurance of Pardon uses the Taizé setting based on Psalm 103 as the sung refrain, with the psalm text from the lectionary providing the spoken portions of the Assurance.

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.

Here's the link:

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

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.

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 (SLANE); trans. Mary Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

THE WORD

Exodus 14:19-31, 15:1b-11, 20-21

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 (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.**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou are mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me 'til I want no more;
Feed me 'til I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, Strong Deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

*Ellen's arrangement of Guide Me, O
Thou Great Jehovah is available as a
lead sheet by request. You may email
us at:
clerestorynotes@gmail.com*

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Bear me through the swelling current,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

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Text: William Williams, 1745; Hymn tune: CWM RHONNDA, John Hughes, 1907

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

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

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

Benediction

People of God, we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord remembering this:

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,
our Father God has seen the blood of His beloved Son
in the covenant meal of remembrance we have shared.
Like His people in the long ago, in the power of the Holy Spirit
we leave the enslavements of our ancient enemy behind us
and head towards the Land of Promise.
Now, let us depart from this place,
led forth by His power and His presence,
to walk out our baptisms in the world
as a people delivered and set free.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Admonition is the judgment of loving care and produces understanding. The Instructor demonstrates such admonitions when He says in the Gospel, ‘How often would I have gathered thy children, as a bird gathers her young ones under her wings, and ye would not!’ . . . Further, He says to Moses, ‘Go and tell Pharaoh to send My people forth; but I know that he will not send them forth.’ He shows both things: His Divinity by His foreknowledge of what would take place, and His love by providing an opportunity for the soul to choose repentance. Caring for people, He also admonishes by Isaiah when He says, ‘This people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.’ What follows is reproof judgment: ‘In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.’ Here His loving care shows their sin and salvation side by side.”

– Clement of Alexandria

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45;
Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

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