

Liturgy

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 18, Year B

GATHERING

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

He made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

He keeps faith forever.

He executes justice for the oppressed,

He gives food to the hungry,
and sets the prisoners free.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind,

**He lifts up those who are bowed down,
and loves the righteous.**

He watches over the stranger,

and upholds the orphan and widow.

The LORD will reign forever, our God, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

— Psalm 146

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
The King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
So wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
How all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
Thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

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

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

This sixteenth Sunday of Proper (“ordinary,” counted) time in this long season of Pentecost continues the yearly, extended time of study and reflection for the Church on the ways in which God’s people walk and live daily, together in community as well as in the wider world, under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. This week is the second in a five-week focus on what might be thought of as matters of practical living.

The lectionary today directs our attention to the relationship between faith and works. More specifically, these texts discuss God’s definition of and attitude toward riches and wealth—and what definition, perspective, and attitude toward wealth should be ours. Several questions are threaded through these readings: What are true riches? What is true benevolence? What is the relationship between injustice, favoritism, and pride? What are God’s promises to those who are generous, and the consequences to those who are “crooked in their ways” (Psalm 125) and cold? What do we learn from Christ’s example? Some of the answers may be surprising, and most will confront and challenge us.

Ellen’s setting of Praise to the Lord, the Almighty is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and scored for keyboard (suitable for piano or organ, also). Please see the commentary on this hymn setting for reflections on the text, performance suggestions, and creative ideas for using the hymn’s verses throughout a worship service.

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/praise-lord-almighty>

INVOCATION

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God, and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man:
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677;
transl. source unknown, vs 1-3; vs 4, Joseph A. Seiss.
Music *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842

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:

Christ Jesus existed in the form of God –
for in Him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell.

*Although He existed in the form of God,
He did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped.*

But He emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant,
being born in human likeness.

*And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself,
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.*

**For this reason God also highly exalted Him,
and bestowed on Him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee will bow,
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

– from Colossians 1:19, 2:9; Philippians 2:5-11

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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.*

– Romans 13:8-10

Everlasting and loving God,
You stepped into space and time to raise and restore fallen humanity;
You did for us what we could not do for ourselves.
Yet too often we fail to live as Your redeemed people.
**We confess that we have not loved You with a whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with You, our God.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.**

[Silent confessions]

Forgive us, we pray.
**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.**

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

Words: Kate B. Wilkinson; Hymn tune: St. LEONARDS, Arthur Barham-Gould, 1925.
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ASSURANCE OF 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,
they will be blessed in what they do.*

– Romans 8:1-2, James 1:25

Thanks be to God!

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]

This setting of the lovely song of confession, May the Mind of Christ, My Savior is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet. Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/may-mind-christ-my-savior>

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

The Compassion Hymn

There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us
When the radiance of heaven came to rescue the lost;
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress
For Your streams of forgiveness and the shade of Your rest.

And with compassion for the hurting, You reached out Your hand
As the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again;
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears,
Heard the sigh of the weary, let the children draw near.

Chorus:

What boundless love, what fathomless grace
You have shown us, O God of compassion!
Each day we live, an offering of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion.

We stood beneath the cross of Calv'ry and gazed on Your face,
At the thorns of oppression and the wounds of disgrace;
For surely You have borne our suffering and carried our grief
As You pardoned the scoffer and showed grace to the thief.

Chorus

How beautiful the feet that carry this gospel of peace
To the fields of injustice and the valleys of need;
To be a voice of hope and healing, to answer the cries
Of the hungry and helpless with the mercy of Christ.

Chorus

CCLI Song #5468807 ©2008 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

THE WORD

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

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

Flow Like a River

Flow like a river, fall like the rain;

Streams of compassion flow from His throne.

Wide as the ocean, deep as the sea;

Life-giving fountain, is God's love for me.

Feast at the table of mercy,

Drink from the cup of His grace.

Dwell in His infinite goodness,

Live in His healing embrace.

CCLI Song # 2989523 ©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Steve Merkel.

Take My Life

Holiness, holiness is what I long for;

Holiness is what I need.

Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

Chorus:

So take my heart and form it;

Take my mind, transform it;

Take my will, conform it

To Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

Verse 2

Faithfulness, faithfulness...

Verse 3

Righteousness, righteousness...

CCLI Song #1617154 ©1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Scott Underwood

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

Let the Amen – sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

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Benediction:

Beloved, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
may we, with eyes of faith, gaze into the perfect law of liberty –
so that we may be faithful doers of the word and not forgetful hearers,
walking in His ways all our days, and loving others just as He loved us.

Amen!

Now to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“It is better for a man to be silent and be a Christian than to speak and not be a follower of Christ. Those who profess themselves to be Christ's are known not only by what they say, but also by what they practice. ‘For the tree is known by its fruit.’ It is better to be silent and be a Christian than to speak and not be a follower of Christ. ‘The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.’ People ‘believe with the heart and confess with the mouth,’ the one ‘unto righteousness,’ the other ‘unto salvation.’ It is good to teach if the one who speaks also acts. For the one who shall both ‘do and teach, the same shall be great in the kingdom.’ Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, first did and then taught, as Luke testifies, ‘whose praise is in the Gospel through all the churches.’ There is nothing which is hidden from the Lord, but our secrets are near to Him. Let us, therefore, do all things as those who have Him dwelling in us, that we may be His temples and He may be in us as God. Let Christ speak in us, even as He did in Paul. Let the Holy Spirit teach us to speak the things of Christ in like manner as He did.”
– Ignatius

Lectionary for next week: Proverbs 1:20-30; Psalm 19;
Isaiah 50:4-9a ; Psalm 116:1-9;
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

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