

Liturgy
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 21A)

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

Who is like You, O LORD –

Majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises,
working wonders?

O LORD, You are mighty forever.

Your faithfulness surrounds You;

**There is none like You,
nor are there any works like Yours.**

All the nations You have made shall come
and bow down before You, O LORD,
and shall glorify Your name.

For You are great and do wondrous things;

You alone are God.

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**We will be glad and exult in you, O Most High.
and sing praises to Your name.**

Blessed be Your glorious name forever!

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 86:8-10 and 9:1-2

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

*Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-9
Matthew 21:23-32*

This eighteenth Sunday of Proper (“ordinary,” counted) time of this long season after 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 of the Holy Spirit. The continuing thread of questions we are following includes some of the most basic, yet lifelong, stepping stones along this “long obedience” that is our journey of faith. How can we be increasingly sensitive to see God’s creative hand, and His protective presence, from day to day? How ought we to respond to external conditions and relationship situations that try our patience and strain our faith? How can we grow more and more like Christ, in His actions and His attitudes?

In today’s reading from Exodus, we see the grumbling of the people for lack of water, and Moses warning them that they were not merely quarreling with him, but testing the LORD—and then the LORD graciously and powerfully providing for their need. Ezekiel reminds us that the LORD’s ways are, indeed, “fair,” while the Psalm lections fill us with hope and joy in recounting God’s works in the past and His patience in leading and teaching us His ways. In Matthew’s account of Jesus’ parable, we read that obedience is in deeds, not mere words, and by extension we see the example of Christ’s own obedience. And in Philippians 2, we read the beloved and profound hymn to Christ—He who, though He existed in the form of God, emptied Himself, humbled Himself, and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. “Therefore, God also

O, Worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
Oh, girded with praise.

O tell of His might and sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is the path on the wings of the storm.
Oh, sing of His grace.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
Oh, worship the King, worship the King.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

Redeemer and Friend;
He's our Redeemer and Friend,
Oh, worship the King.

Redeemer and Friend;
He's our Redeemer and Friend,
Oh, worship the King. Worship the King.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2004 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Robert Grant, in *Christian Psalmody*, 1833; adapted from William Kethe, the Genevan *Psalter*, 1561.
Hymn tune: LYONS, attributed to Johann M. Hadyn.

INVOCATION

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

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred every tongue on this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words, verses 1-3: Edward Perronet, 1779; final verse: John Rippon, 1787.
Hymn tune: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793

highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

This classic hymn proclaims the worship and praise of Him whose Name is above all names, not only in describing His splendor, but in reciting the mighty and faithful works of the Ancient of Days—our King, Shield, Defender, Maker, Redeemer, and Friend.

Ellen's setting of this beautiful hymn—with its extensions of the final line of each verse adding to its power—is available on request. You may email us at:
clerestorynotes@gmail.com

Music for Ellen's setting of All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings section) as a lead sheet and scored for 3-part vocals. (Key of D, modulating to E and F for verses 3 and 4). We reprise this hymn, verse 4, below (at Sending).

You may read the commentary and find sample lead sheets here:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/all-hail-power-jesus-name>

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in these words based on 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

Psalm 25:1-10

Refrain (sung):

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in You I put my trust.

(Chanted)

Do not let me be put to *shame;
Do not let my enemies exult over *me.
Do not let those who wait for You be put to *shame;
Let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacher-*ous.

Make me to know Your ways, O *Lord;
Teach me Your paths; lead me in Your*truth;
For You are the God of my sal-*vation;
For You I wait all day *long.

Refrain

Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast *love,
For they have been from of *old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my trans-*gressions;
According to Your steadfast love remember me, for Your goodness' *sake.

Refrain

[Silent confessions]

Most merciful God,
**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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in Your will,
and walk in Your ways,
to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

*Music for this responsorial setting of
Psalm 25 is available in the music
catalog as a lead sheet (refrain),
4-part notated chant section, and
scored piano accompaniment with
vocal line (refrain).*

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/psalm-25>

*This simple, traditional prayer of con-
fession 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].*

(Chanted)
Good and upright is the *Lord;
Therefore He instructs sinners in the *way.
He leads the humble in what is *right,
And teaches the humble His *way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and *faithfulness,
For those who keep His covenant and His de-*crees.

Refrain

Refrain and chant tune: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, these are God's promises:

For though the LORD is exalted, yet He regards the lowly,
but the proud and haughty He knows only from afar.
The LORD will fulfill His plans and purpose for His people;
His lovingkindness endures forever. – from Psalm 138:6, 8

For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will
and to work for His good pleasure. – Philippians 2:13

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

What A Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God, the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,
So, Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great; Your love was greater.
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful Name it is;
Nothing compares to this: the Name of Jesus,
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You; the veil tore before You.
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival, You have no equal;
Now and forever, God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory;
Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is; nothing can stand against;
What a powerful Name it is: the Name of Jesus.

THE WORD

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4,12-16

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-9

Matthew 21:23-32

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.

Jesus Is Lord

"Jesus is Lord," the cry that echoes through creation;

Resplendent pow'r, eternal Word, our Rock.

The Son of God, the King, whose glory fills the heavens,

Yet bids us come to taste this living bread.

Jesus is Lord, whose voice sustains the stars and planets;

Yet, in His wisdom, laid aside His crown.

Jesus, the man who washed our feet, who bore our suffering,

Became a curse to bring salvation's plan.

Jesus is Lord, the tomb is gloriously empty!

Not even death could crush this King of love!

The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we're forgiven,

And we can run into the arms of God.

"Jesus is Lord," a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,

As He returns, and ev'ry knee bows low.

Then ev'ry eye and ev'ry heart will see His glory;

The Judge of all will take His children home.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved,
Words, final verse: John Rippon, 1787.
Hymn tune: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793

This final verse of our song of Invocation (above) sends us, singing, into the world to love and serve the Lord—with hope and joy.

Benediction

Almighty God, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
walking out our baptisms in joy and faithfulness,
grant that we – Your people – may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory,
that He may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Now to Him who reigns 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, King of kings and Lord of lords,
be glory and honor, dominion and praise forever and ever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“The Word was with God in the beginning, and the Man was subject to the pain of death. The human nature wasn't eternal, and the divine nature wasn't mortal. All His other attributes are considered in the same way. For it wasn't the human nature that raised up Lazarus, nor was it the power that can't suffer who wept for him while he lay in the grave. The tears came from the Man, but the life came from the true Life. It wasn't the human nature that fed the thousands, nor was it all powerful strength that hurried to the fig tree. Who was weary from the journey, and who made the world exist by His word? What is the brightness of the glory, and what was pierced with the nails? What body was beaten during Passion Week, and what body is externally glorified? This much is clear: that the blows belong to the servant who was the Lord, and honor belongs to the Lord who was a servant. As a result, Christ's natures are unified and their respective attributes belong to both natures. Just as the Lord received the scars of the servant, the servant is glorified with the honor of the Lord. For this is why the cross is called the cross of the Lord of glory, and why every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
– Gregory of Nyssa

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19;
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15;
Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46

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