

Liturgy

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 22A)

GATHERING

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech;
night to night reveals knowledge.**

*They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.*

**Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,
restoring the soul;

*The testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple.*

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

*The commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes.*

The fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever.

*The judgments of the LORD are true;
they are righteous altogether.*

They are more desirable than gold,
yes, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and the drippings of the honeycomb.

*By them Your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

**Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations;
I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever,
even to the end.**

— from Psalm 19:1-11 and 119:89, 112

Creation Sings the Father's Song

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day,
Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow;
His breath upon this spinning globe;
He charts the eagle's flight,
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing:
"Hallelujah!" Fill the earth with songs of worship,
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

LECTIONARY for the nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:

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

In this season of Pentecost, the longest season of the liturgical year, the focus of study and reflection of the Church is on the ways in which we, God's people, walk out our faith and live our lives under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit—both individually and together in community as the Body of Christ. In this Year A, in the first Old Testament readings we are following the history of God's interactions and leading of His people from Creation to the entrance of the Israelites into the Promised Land: the narratives of Adam and Eve in the garden of the long ago, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and the Exodus from the Israelites' bondage in Egypt, and Joshua, Moses' chosen successor as leader of the people. In these weeks, the lections in Matthew's gospel reveal Jesus' teachings in parables about the kingdom of God during the culminating days of His earthly ministry. In the epistle readings we see Paul's exhortations that our lives reflect, indeed embody, Jesus' life and teachings. The second, or alternative, Old Testament readings are intended to complement the gospel readings. The psalm texts are sometimes thought of as responses to the Old Testament readings, though as we have seen, they highlight specific characteristics of our gracious God that often broaden and deepen our understanding and the application of all the lectionary texts.

This week, we read the text of the Ten Commandments in Exodus and Jesus' parable of the unrighteous tenants of the Lord's vineyard, who kill the son and heir, supposing that they can in that way inherit the vineyard on their own terms. In Philippians 3, we read Paul's testimony of his striving, in his

Creation gazed upon His face;
The ageless One in time's embrace,
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally.

Refrain

Creation longs for His return,
When Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky,
All heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme:
The glory of our God and King!

Refrain

CCLI Song #5333798 ©2008 Thankyou Music.
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

INVOCATION

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

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873. Hymn tune: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873.

own strength, to gain God's favor by means of his own righteousness and impeccable observance of the Law. His conclusion: every earthly gain and all earthly righteousness is only "rubbish." His one goal—as ours should be—is "the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

This liturgy takes as its main theme the entire chapter of Philippians 3, which ends with the wonderful promise, "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, ..."

Other song suggestions for Gathering and Invocation, depending on the overall theme and focus of your service and teaching time:

- the classic hymn, How Great Thou Art, with words by Stuart Hines set to a traditional Swedish folk melody.*
- We Will Glorify (CCLI Song #19038 ©1982 New Spring. Twila Paris)*
- I Will Sing (Copyright 1999 High Hill Songs ASCAP / Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Carl and Leann Albrecht, Ed Kerr. The lead sheet for this wonderful gathering song, a favorite of mine, is available on Leann's website (<http://www.leannalbrecht.com/downloads/leadsheets/IWillSing-leadsheet.pdf>)*
- Psalm 19 (CCLI Song #1773823, by Terry Butler. ©1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Whatever things were gain to me
I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
*More than that, I consider all things as loss
in view of the surpassing value
of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord,*
That I may gain Christ and be found in Him,
Not having any righteousness of my own,
but the righteousness that comes from God
through faith in Christ;
*And that I may know Him
and the power of His resurrection,*
**Being conformed to His death
so that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**
Forgetting what lies behind
and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
*I press on toward the goal of the prize
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
**For our citizenship is in heaven,
from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ;
who will transform the body of our humble state
into conformity with the body of His glory,
by the exertion of the power that He has
even to subject all things to Himself.**

– from Philippians 3:7-14, 20-21

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

But who can discern their own errors?
Cleanse me from hidden faults.
Keep Your servants from willful sins.
**Let them not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**
Let the words of our mouths
and the meditations of our hearts
be pleasing to You,
O LORD, our Rock and our Redeemer.

– from Psalm 19:12-14

[Silent confessions]

Almighty God,
**to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

This traditional prayer of confession, sometimes called the “Collect for Purity,” dates back at least as far as the mid sixteenth century Book of Common Prayer. Its origin is traced back to the eleventh-century Leofric Missal (liturgical book). It pairs particularly well with the confession text from Psalm 19.

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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1912. Hymn tune: ST. LEONARDS, Arthur Barham-Gould, 1925.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of God's forgiveness:

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.

But Christ suffered and died for us;

**He was raised from the dead
and ascended on high for us;**

**He reigns in power for us,
and He continues to intercede for us.**

**And nothing shall separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

— based on Romans 8:34, 39

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and testimonies of God's faithfulness

Glorify Your Name

Your presence, Your glory, You're welcome here.
All honor, dominion; Lord, please come near.
We want You, we need You,
We live to glorify Your name:

Glorify Your name; glorify Your name.
Glorify the name above all names.

CCLI Song #4036137 ©2001 Hoops and Tunes Music; Kevin Singleton

THE WORD

Exodus 20:1-14, 7-9; 12-20

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 3:4b-14

Psalms 19

Psalms 80:7-15

Matthew 21:33-46

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. Please see the full content description in the Music Room for other suggested uses of this hymn.

Here's a link:

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

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 in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done

On earth as in heav'n.

Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us;

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours.

Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)

King of Wisdom and Light

Holy, holy, holy,

God of power and might:

Heaven is filled with Your glory,

King of wisdom and light.

We worship You, We praise You,

God Most High;

We worship You, We praise You,

King and Lord, Jesus Christ.

CCLI Song #2514352; ©1998 International Liturgy Publications; Jim Cowan

Holy

I will lift my voice, and I will sing,

I will sing holy, holy.

To my Lord and Savior, my God and King:

I will sing holy, holy

Chorus:

I will praise the Lamb of God

Who sits upon the throne.

I will worship Him,

And give the praise to Him alone.

He who was and is and is to come:

I will sing before His throne forever, forever.

All the angels sing, and they bow down,

And they sing holy, holy.

We, Your sons and daughters, we praise You now:

And we cry holy, holy.

Chorus

Holy, holy. Holy, holy . . .

Donnie McClurkin. ©2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music.

We have several sung versions of The Lord's Prayer we love to sing at this point in our worship services. Two of them we have composed, in-house so to speak. You can find them in the Music Room (Sheet Music Catalog/Liturgical and Psalm Settings section).

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/liturgical-and-psalm-settings>

This setting by Eric Wyse, titled Our Father in Heaven, is available at Score Exchange (<http://www.scoreexchange.com/scores/19379.html>).

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior (reprise)

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 I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1912. Hymn tune: ST. LEONARDS, Arthur Barham-Gould, 1925.

Benediction

Now, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord:

May Almighty God, who raised Jesus from the dead
and exalted Him to the right hand of His throne of majesty on high,
grant that you may know His resurrection power in your daily lives,
and that you may look with joyful hope to that day
when we shall see the Savior face to face and share in His glory,
in that heavenly place He has gone to prepare for us.

Amen!

**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 –

“I am only intent on ‘one thing’ says Paul, ‘in stretching forward to the things which are before.’ But included in this ‘one thing’ he says, is ‘forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.’ Forgetting the past things made him reach forward to the things ahead. So then, any who think they have accomplished it all and need no further perfecting can stop running. They have reached their goal. But those who think they are still far from the goal will never stop running. You should think like the latter, even if you perform ten thousand good deeds. For if Paul thought thus, after ten thousand deaths and so many dangers, how much more should we? . . . We should act like him, forget our successes, and throw them behind us. For runners don't think about how many laps they have finished, but how many are left. We, too, should think not about how we are advanced in holiness, but about how much farther we have to go. For how do we profit from what we have when we don't add what we lack? In addition, Paul didn't say, ‘I don't think about,’ but ‘I don't even remember.’ For we become eager when we diligently work toward what is left, when we forget everything else.”

– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;
Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

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