

Liturgy

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 23A)

GATHERING

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

His steadfast love and mercy endure forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those whom He has redeemed
from the hand of the enemy and gathered to Himself.

They cried out to the LORD, and He delivered them;

He led them forth and guided them in the wilderness.

Let us give thanks to the LORD for His goodness,
and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

**For He satisfies the longing soul,
and fills the hungry soul with goodness.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

His steadfast love is everlasting,
and His faithfulness continues through all generations!

O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You;

**I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

Come, let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation!

— based on Psalms 107:1-9 and 106:1-2, and Isaiah 25:1,9

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Bridge:

Sing to the Lord, exalt His name;
O, make His praise glorious.
Pour forth His praise,
His anthem raise;
Rejoice in Him forever.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Bridge

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Setting and bridge: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words from *Fourscore and Seven Psalms of David* (Geneva, 1561), attributed to William Kethe.
Hymn tune (verses): *Old 100th*, attributed to Louis Bourgeois.

LECTIONARY for the twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

On this twentieth Sunday after the day of Pentecost, we—the Church—continue in this season of study and contemplation of the many and amazing ways our gracious God leads and directs His people, in all aspects of our lives, under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. In recent weeks we have focused our reflection on the narratives in Genesis and Exodus of the earliest founders of our faith, on Matthew's accounts of the teaching and kingdom parables of Jesus as the years of His earthly ministry were coming to a conclusion, and the exhortations in the Pauline epistles that our lives always reflect the faithfulness and goodness of God and that we embody the teachings, and the very life, of Jesus.

Today's lectionary directs our attention to the Israelites' impatience as they waited for Moses to return from meeting with God on Mount Sinai, their faithlessness in demanding a "god" from Aaron resulting in the Golden Calf, and God's faithfulness in sparing them following Moses' entreaties for mercy. In Philippians 4, we read of God's blessings of joy and peace, and meditate on the list of things "excellent and worthy of praise" that we are to "think on" continually. In the gospel, we consider the parable that likens the kingdom of heaven to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. And the familiar and beloved twenty-third psalm reminds us of the Lord's leading, restoration, comfort, provisions, and eternal promise of His presence.

The thread through this liturgy is Psalm 23, which we weave through our worship as we "sing, pray, tell, and enact God's story."

Music for Ellen's setting of All People That On Earth Do Dwell is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet, scored for voice

INVOCATION

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

Bless the Lord

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

*Songs and Prayers from Taizé; ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé,
F-71250 Taizé, France*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.

*He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.*

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.*

**Surely goodness and lovingkindness
will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

— Psalm 23

Thanks be to God!

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 Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth.
Give me an undivided heart to fear Your name.**

— Psalm 143:1, 8b; 86:11

[Silence]

God of mercy and steadfast love,
You are slow to anger and full of compassion.
You lead and guide us, and draw us to Yourself.
You welcome all who come to You with repentant and contrite hearts.

**We confess to You, and before one another, that we have sinned,
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done and be what we have left undone.**

We have offended Your holiness.

We have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Too often we have followed the devices and desires of our own hearts.

and piano accompaniment, and arranged for instruments (woodwind quintet, string orchestra, and others on request). It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1.

You may hear All People That On Earth Do Dwell in the Music Room/Media Studio.

Here are the links:

Music Room Commentary:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/all-people-earth-do-dwell>

Audio Music Library (Index)

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/audio-media-studio-clips-index>

You may want to add a sung version of Psalm 23 following the antiphonal reading.

The corporate portion of this prayer of penitence is a traditional prayer adapted from the Book of Common Prayer (penitential order 1).

[Silent confessions]

Forgive us, and restore us, we pray.

**Seat us together at the table of Your bountiful goodness,
that with all Your children we may, with joy and gladness,
feast on all that satisfies the longing heart.**

**Through Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and forgiveness:

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;
I will cleanse you from all your impurities
and from all your idols.

*"Moreover, I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit within you;
and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh
and give you a heart of flesh.*

*I will put My Spirit within you
and cause you to walk in My statutes,
and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."*

— Ezekiel 36:25-27

The steadfast love of the LORD

**is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear Him,
and His righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep His covenant
and remember to do His commandments.**

— Psalm 103:17-18

Passing of the Peace

The references in the prayer of confession to the Lord's bountiful goodness and the joy found at His table continue the thread of Psalm 23 through this liturgy.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

My Shepherd will supply my need:
Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
His presence is my stay;
One word of His supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
His hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
His oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719. Hymn Tune: RESIGNATION (SOUTHERN HARMONY)
Setting: Ellen Koehler, Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

*The lyrics are one of the many lovely
versified renderings of Psalm 23. Ellen's
setting of My Shepherd Will Supply My
Need is available on request.*

*You may contact us at:
clerestorynotes@gmail.com*

THE WORD

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

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!

Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven,
Your name is holy,
Your name is holy,
Our Father.
Your kingdom come,
And Your will be done
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray,
Our bread for today,
Our debts forgive
And in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials;
Save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom,
We sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours –
Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

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Build My Life

Worthy of every song we could ever sing;
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring;
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe;
We live for You.

Jesus, the name above every other name;
Jesus, the only one who could ever save;
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe;
We live for You.

Chorus:

Holy, there is no one like You;
There is none beside You.
Open up my eyes in wonder, and
Show me who You are, and
Fill me with Your heart, and
Lead me in Your love
To those around me.

Bridge:

I will build my life upon Your love;
It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone,
And I will not be shaken.

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Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, Pat Barrett

Music for this setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet, and as a solo/melody line with piano accompaniment on request.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/our-father-heaven>

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Benediction

Cantor:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord smile on you, shine His light upon you.
May the Lord lift you, turn His face towards you,
Give you His peace, give you His peace.

All:

May the Lord bless us and keep us.
May the Lord smile on us, shine His light upon us.
May the Lord lift us, turn His face towards us,
Give us His peace, give us His peace.

Blessed we came to this place today,
And blessed now, we will go.
In the name of the Father, the Spirit, and the Son.
(repeat)

Cantor:

Go now in peace; go now in peace.

CCLI Song #7000703 ©2013 Atlas Mountain Songs | Said and Done Music | sixsteps Music |
Thankyou Music | worshiptogether.com songs. Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin

Benediction

People of God, we have worshiped the Lord together in this place –

We've gathered. We've heard the word.

We've come to the Table, the Feast of the Lord.

And now, as we go forth, in faith and joy, to love and serve the Lord,
may He grant that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Observe whether or not change occurs in those who listen honestly to the principles of our faith, harmonized with our inborn understanding. For much instruction on perverted things has the same effect—it has implanted minds with the belief that images are gods and that things made of gold, silver, ivory, and stone deserve worship. Yet common sense tells us that God is not a piece of corruptible matter. Neither is He honored when people try to form Him from dead matter or make some image or symbol of His appearance. Therefore, we say that images are not gods and such creations are not to be compared with the Creator. They are small in contrast to God. He is over all, and He created, upholds, and governs the universe. When the rational soul recognizes its relationship (to the Divine), it at once rejects what it once considered to be gods and resumes its natural love for its Creator. Because of its affection toward Him, the soul receives Him.”

– Origen

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;
Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-13;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

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