

## *Liturgy*

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
(Proper 24A)

### GATHERING

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble in awe!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

**The LORD is great in Zion;  
He is exalted over all the peoples!  
Let them praise Your great and awesome name.  
Holy is He!**

Sing to the LORD a new song, all the earth.

Declare His glory among the nations,  
and His wonders among all the peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
Honor and majesty are before Him;  
Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
Bring an offering, and come into His courts.

**In the presence of the faithful  
we proclaim His name, for it is good.  
His faithfulness continues through all generations!**

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at His holy mountain;  
for the LORD our God is holy!

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 96, 99, and 100:5

### *Immortal Invisible (Your Great Name We Praise)*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise;  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.  
Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;  
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light;  
Not wanting or wasting, You rule us in might.  
Your justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

### *Chorus*

Most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of Days;  
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise!

All life comes from You, Lord, to both great and small;  
In all life You live, Lord, the true Life of all.  
We blossom and flourish but quickly grow frail;  
We wither and perish, but You never fail.

### *Chorus*

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light;  
Your angels adore You, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we will render, oh Father of Grace;  
Till one day in splendor we see face to face.

### *Chorus*

CCLI Song #4088941 © 2001 Sovereign Grace Praise;  
Bob Kauflin | Walter Chalmers Smith

*LECTIONARY for the twenty-first  
Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:*

*Exodus 33:12-23*

*Psalms 99*

*Isaiah 45:1-7*

*Psalms 96*

*1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

*Matthew 22:15-22*

*We are nearing the end of this longest season of the Christian year—the season when the Church yearly observes an extended time of reflection and study into the ways in which God’s people walk and live, in all aspects of our lives, under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. This is the point in the calendar year when time seems to quicken: the holidays are fast approaching, and our attention turns, at least a little bit, to preparations for the autumn feast days.*

*(For some perspective on the Fall special days, there are two insightful entries in the Reflections section of Clerestory Notes: “Speaking of Saints ...” and “The Saints in Our lives.” You’ll find them here:*

*<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/blog/>*

*Even more than these preparations, which soon will fold in plans for Advent and Christmas, the pace of the Liturgical Year quickens as we move toward its final Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, at the end of November.*

*On this twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, Year A, we continue our close reading of the narratives in Genesis and Exodus of the earliest founders of our faith, of Jesus’ teaching and parables of the Kingdom in Matthew’s gospel, and of Paul’s exhortations that our lives faithfully reflect God’s love and goodness—both in our actions and our words, as we witness to God’s presence in our lives. We see threads in each of the lectionary readings of the joy and blessing of God’s knowing and calling His people, of His fellowship and communion with us, and of His understanding of our needs and providing for them. These threads glisten most especially in the scene from Exodus 33. Moses had recently spent an extended time on Mount Sinai with God, receiving the Ten Commandments and ordinances for living, and instructions for constructing and furnishing the Tabernacle,*

## 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.

Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; transl. Clarence A. Walworth. Hymn tune: TE DEUM  
Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright Ellen Koehler ©2012 All Rights Reserved.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the hope of the gospel,  
which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven,  
the mystery which has now been manifested to us, His saints:

**Jesus is the Christ,  
the Anointed One of God,  
the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.**

In Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth,  
things visible and invisible.

*All things have been created through Him and for Him.*

He is before all things, and in Him  
all things consist and hold together.

*For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood of His cross.*

**This is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might,  
which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead,  
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,  
far above all principality and power and might and dominion,  
and every name that is named, not only in this age,  
but also in the age to come.**

God has made known to us the riches of the glory of this mystery:

**Christ in us, the hope of glory.  
Thanks be to God!**

— from Colossians 1:15-28 and Ephesians 1:19-21

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house,  
and the place where Your glory dwells.

*Examine me, O LORD, and try me; test my mind and my heart.  
For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes.*

— Psalm 26:2, 8

[Silence]

*consecrating priests, and imposing tithes and offerings. The people, impatient with Moses' prolonged absence, demanded that Aaron make a god for them; the result was the Golden Calf. On his return, the furious Moses threw down the tablets of stone, shattering them. As for the calf, he ground it to powder, sprinkled it over water, and forced the people to drink it. After further punishing the people for their idolatry, Moses returned to the mountain to entreat the LORD to spare the people.*

*This sets the background for Moses' conversation with the LORD in Exodus 33. The LORD directs Moses now to depart and lead the people of Israel to the land of promise, but has said He will not accompany them in their midst because they are obstinate. Moses, his calling reiterated but surely reticent because of what he has seen his people capable of, prays, "If I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You. . . . If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here. . . ." The LORD graciously and lovingly replies, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest." Bolstered and blessed by this promise, Moses pleads, "Show me Your glory!" The beautiful scene concludes with the LORD placing Moses securely—safely, protected—in the cleft of a rock, covered by His hand while His glory passes by. As you read, sing, and pray through this sample liturgy, what kinds of reflections and questions come to mind? Here are two suggestions: What has been your prayer in times of disillusionment or discouragement? Are there times in your life when God has provided "a cleft in a rock" for you?*

*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 accompaniment and as a choral arrangement by request.) This hymn is one whose verses may be chosen and used as doxologies in a variety of contexts or, as below, sung as a prayer of confession. Here's the link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-god-we-praise-thy-name>

Let these words of Moses to the LORD be the cry of our hearts:  
“Show me now Your ways, so that I may know You and find favor in Your sight.”  
– Exodus 33:13

[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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us and renew us, that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

### *Send Out Your Light*

Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;  
Send them that they may guide us.  
Lord, may they bring us into Your courts,  
To the heart of Your dwelling places.

Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;  
Send them that they may guide us.  
Come, and restore us, Lord God of Hosts;  
Make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

Words and Music: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2014 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved  
Words based on Psalms 43:4, 84:1-2, and 80:19.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”  
has shone in our hearts to give the light  
of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

*And we all, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord  
are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory,  
which comes from the Lord, the Spirit.* – 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:6

This is God’s promise of His love and forgiveness:  
“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” – Exodus 33:14

### Passing of the Peace

### TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories 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:

### *Chorus*

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

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

*Music for Send Out Your Light is available in the Psalm Settings section of the music catalog as a lead sheet, scored for voice and piano accompaniment, and arranged for 2-part and 3-part harmony. Please see the commentary in the Music Room on this beautiful sung prayer that expresses the heart’s cry for God’s presence. There you’ll find suggestions for song pairings, tips for instrumentation, and a special note for usage during the Season of Light (Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany).*

*Here is the link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/send-out-your-light>

*You can see a video in the Media Studio Section of Clerestory Notes:*

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

## THE WORD

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

## 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!**

*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.**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

*He Hideth My Soul*

A wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord,  
A wonderful Savior to me;  
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,  
Where rivers of pleasure I see.

*Refrain:*

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,  
That shadows a dry, thirsty land.  
He hideth my life with the depths of His love,  
And covers me there with His hand,  
And covers me there with His hand.

SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*Benediction*

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.

Go now in peace; go now in peace.

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

*Benediction*

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
Grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table,  
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory.

**Amen.**

And as we go forth, in faith and joy, to love and serve the Lord,  
May He be so manifest in us that our lives are light to all those around us:  
to the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“No one can see the ‘face,’ that is, the appearance of God’s wisdom, and live. For all who strive to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind longs to study this revelation. Through its study, those who love their neighbors encourage them as much as they can. All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments. . . . Therefore this ‘appearance’ whisks away every rational soul with the desire for it, and makes the soul even more pure and eager for it. For souls become purer the more they rise to spiritual things. They rise more to spiritual things the more they die to fleshly things. So, while we are absent from the Lord and walk by faith instead of sight, we should see the ‘back parts’ or flesh of Christ. By that very faith, we stand on the solid foundation and rock of faith and we observe it from a safe watch tower. . . . For we come to love to see the face of Christ even more as we recognize how much Christ first loved us in His flesh.”

– Augustine

**Lectionary for next week:** Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;  
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1;  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:15-22

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