

Liturgy

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 24, Year B

GATHERING

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, You are very great!

**You are clothed with honor and majesty;
You wrap Yourself with light as with a cloak,
and spread out the heavens like a curtain.**

You make the clouds Your chariot,
You ride on the wings of the wind;
*You make the winds Your messengers,
fire and flame Your ministers.*

You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.

**O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all;
the earth is full of Your possessions.**

*May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in His works!*

**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing to the LORD while I have my being.**

May our meditation be pleasing to Him;
for we rejoice in the LORD.

— from Psalm 104:1-5, 24, 31, 33-35

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 ©2004 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

Words: Robert Grant, in *Christian Psalms*, 1833; adapted from William Kethe, the Genevan *Psalter*, 1561.

Hymn tune: LYONS, attributed to Johann M. Hadyn.

LECTIONARY for the twenty-second
Sunday after Pentecost, Year B:

Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

There are only a few weeks left in this longest season of the liturgical year, the season after Pentecost (also frequently termed Proper or “ordinary,” counted time). As we continue in this yearly practice of the Church—a deep consideration of the ways in which we, God’s people, live and walk out our faith in the world under the power and direction of the Holy Spirit—our attention is turned again to the defining attributes of God. Last week, we pondered God’s goodness: what that means, and what its deep meaning entails in our lives and requires of us. Today, we focus on the power and authority of God. We know God is all-powerful (omnipotent), and His authority in earth and heaven has no limit. But are His power and authority the same thing? If not, how might they differ? How do we observe, experience, and understand His power and authority? How do the definition and exercise of Godly power and authority differ from what we see in the world? And how ought that to be manifested in our lives as we seek to follow Him in everything?

In today’s lectionary, we see these questions most obviously reflected in Mark’s gospel. Here, Jesus is presented with a stunning object lesson when the brothers James and John (sons of Zebedee, elsewhere nicknamed by Jesus “the Sons of Thunder,” Mk 3:17) requested that they be given places of honor and authority, one each to sit at His right and left hand. The other disciples were understandably angry with James and John. Jesus took this opportunity to instruct all of them about what power and authority are in the kingdom of God: “Whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave

INVOCATION

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

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, 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, 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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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

of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” We can discern further aspects of Godly power and authority—and the contrast between the earthly understanding and exercise of might as opposed to the heavenly—in the other lectionary readings. In Job, we see God reproving him for his presumptuous thoughts and words, both about God and in answer to his “friends.” In Isaiah we read the prophecy of Christ as “the Suffering Servant,” who willingly submitted to torture and death so that, in His sacrifice and bearing the iniquity of us all, He might secure our salvation. In Hebrews we see Christ as the eternal High Priest, who “did not glorify Himself” in taking this honor, but was appointed a priest forever by God, and so became “the source of eternal salvation.” Finally, the psalm passages remind us of the awesome majesty of the manifold works of God and of His myriad promises to those who trust in His authority and the working of His power.

This Christological hymn recorded in Philippians 2 is also known as “the Kenosis hymn” because it describes the self-emptying of Jesus’ own will and earthly desires in deference to the will of the Father. It is not included in today’s lectionary, but it makes a very fitting Profession of Faith in a service focused on the nature and expression of servanthood as the true mark of Kingdom greatness.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession –

The words of Jesus to His disciples:

“You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

– Mark 10:42-45

[Silence]

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
**We have sinned against You and against others,
in thought, word and deed,
in what we have done and in what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not put others’ interests above our own,
and have been unwilling to serve them.**

[Silence]

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us.
Cleanse us, and make us daily more like Christ,
that we may truly be His body in this world,
to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

Make Me A Servant

Make me a servant, humble and meek;
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my life always be:
Make me a servant; make me a servant;
Make me a servant today.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy:

“I dwell in the high and holy place,
and with the contrite and lowly of spirit,
in order to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

– Isaiah 57:15

Put your hope in the LORD,

*For with the LORD is steadfast love,
and with Him is abundant redemption.
He redeems His people from all their sins.
How blessed are all those who hope in Him!*

– Isaiah 30:18b

Thanks be to God!

The prayer of confession is adapted from the traditional penitential prayer in 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].

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

More Like Jesus

You came to the world You created,
Trading Your crown for a cross.
You willingly died,
Your innocent life paid the cost.

Counting Your status as nothing,
The King of all kings came to serve;
Washing my feet,
Covering me with Your love.

Chorus:

If more of You means less of me,
Take everything.
Yes, all of You,
Is all I need;
Take everything

You are my life and my treasure,
The One that I can't live without.
Here at Your feet,
My desires and dreams
I lay down.
Here at Your feet,
My desires and dreams I lay down.

Bridge:

O, Lord, change me like only You can.
Here with my heart in Your hands,
Father, I pray:
Make me more like Jesus.
This world is dying to know who You are.
You've shown us the way to Your heart.
So, Father, I pray:
Make me more like Jesus.

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THE WORD

Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalms 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

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, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins
As we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
Forever and ever;
And Thine is the power,
Forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory,
Now and forever,
Amen, amen, amen.

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How Beautiful

How beautiful the hands that served
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth;
How beautiful the feet that walked
The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.

How beautiful, how beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the heart that bled
That took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes
That chose to forgive and never despise.

How beautiful, how beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

And as He laid down His life
We offer this sacrifice:
That we will live just as He died,
Willing to pay the price, willing to pay the price.

How beautiful the radiant Bride
Who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes.
How beautiful when humble hearts give
The fruit of pure lives so that others may live.

How beautiful, how beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the feet that bring
The sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.

How beautiful, how beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

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Music for The Lord's Prayer is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also available in the music collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio. Here are the links:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer>

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

Lord I want to be like Jesus
In my heart, in my heart;
Lord I want to be like Jesus
In my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
In my heart.

Lord I want to be like Jesus
In my life, in my life;
Lord I want to be like Jesus
In my life.
In my life, in my life,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
In my life.

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Benediction:

The keeping of God and the Lord on you;
the keeping of Christ always on you;
the keeping of the life-giving Spirit, everlasting, be yours.

Amen!

And may Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –
bless you, now and forever, as you go forth into the world
to love and serve the Lord,
faithfully manifesting His goodness, power, glory,
and Kingdom blessing in the world around you.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“If Jesus had merely said, ‘Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,’ it would appear that we should seek human praise. But those who are hypocrites, who cherish honors and covet emptiest glory, seek such praise. Scripture says about such people, ‘If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.’ . . . Also, ‘But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.’ Therefore, our Lord didn’t merely say, ‘that they may see your good works.’ But He added, ‘and glorify your Father who is in heaven.’ The mere fact that people please others by their good works doesn’t make pleasing others an end in itself. Instead, please others so that God can be glorified in you. And those who offer praise should honor God, not other people. Our Lord demonstrated this when He healed the paralytic. Marveling at His powers, the multitude ‘feared and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.’ And Christ’s imitator, the apostle Paul, says, ‘But they had heard only that he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed; and they glorified God in me.’” – Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22;
Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-38; Mark 10:46-52.

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This traditional “spiritual” is a wonderful summing up of the themes of the lectionary and liturgy. We’ve used the last verse here first, then adapted it a bit to declare that we want to be like Jesus not only in our hearts, but in our lives. How fitting, as we prepare to go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord!