Liturgy

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 27A)

GATHERING

Lord, open our lips;
And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be ages unto ages.
Amen.

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!
For praise is becoming to the upright.
Sing to Him a new song, and shout for joy!
For the word of the LORD is upright
and all His work is done in faithfulness.
The earth is full of His lovingkindness.
How blessed are those whose God is the LORD,
the people He has chosen for His own inheritance!
The LORD looks from heaven;
from where He sits enthroned
He sees all the children of men,
He who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.
Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
On those who hope in His lovingkindness.
We wait in hope for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
In Him our hearts rejoice,
because we trust in His holy name.
Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
Even as we hope in You. – from Psalm 33

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice the Lord is King;
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love.
When He had purged our stains,
He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King!

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

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
Amos 5:18-24
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

There are three weeks remaining in this longest longest season of the liturgical year, the period between the Day of Pentecost and the beginning of Advent. During this period of ordinary (or Proper) time, the Church has observed an extended season of study and reflection on the ways in which we, Christ's body here on earth, walk and live, in all aspects of our lives of faith, under the continual guidance and all-sufficient power of the Holy Spirit. In this Year A, the Old Testament readings have directed our attention to the history of the Patriarchs, the Exodus and the forty-year journey of the Israelites in the wilderness, and the arrival of God's people in the Promised Land. The focus of the Gospel passages in Matthew has been on Christ's earthly ministry as He taught, healed and provided for the needs of the people. Increasingly toward the end of His time as the incarnate Word of God here on earth, He taught in parables of the kingdom—both an encouragement of hope and a call to repentance. In the epistles, we've studied Paul's teachings and exhortations that we follow Christ's example as we live together in community, and in these final weeks the closing chapters of 1 Thessalonians turn our attention to questions of the last days. And as always, the Psalm texts reveal how the narratives and highlights of God's character and power were remembered and incorporated into His people's ancient worship of Him.

This week and next, the lectionary directs our study and reflection to Jesus' words in what is known as the Olivet Discourse, as He taught His disciples in answer to their entreaty, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" Paul's exhortation and encourage-

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King!

Setting and chorus: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.. All Rights Reserved.
Original text: Charles Wesley, 1744. Original hymn tune: DARWALL'S 148th, John Darwall, 1770.

INVOCATION

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

Holy, Holy

Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
Who was and is, and is to come,
Who was and is, and is to come –

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the gospel, which we received, by which we were saved,
and in which we stand:

Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day,
and appeared to many faithful witnesses.
Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
In Him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through Him and for Him.
and in Him all things consist and hold together.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that He may have first place in everything.
And God has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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.

– from 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 1:19-23

ment in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5 are parallel passages to Jesus' Olivet parables. These questions and encouragement are the focus of this sample liturgy.

Music for Rejoice, the Lord Is King *is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet, arranged for voice and piano, and as a choral arrangement that begins for two voices and expands to four parts. This setting is joyful, with a 6/8 meter. The melody is loosely based on the traditional hymn tune. We sing the first three verses here, and close the service with the fourth verse as a strong statement of our hope and joy in the Savior.*

Here's the link in the Hymn Settings section of the Music Room:
https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/rejoice-lord-king

Prayers of Confession

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,
and who may stand in His holy place?
Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
Whose walk is blameless, who do what is righteous.

[Silence]

Kyrie eleison. **Lord, have mercy.**

O LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle,
and who may dwell on Your holy hill?
Those who speak the truth from their hearts,
Who do no wrong to a neighbor.

[Silence]

Christe eleison. **Christ, have mercy.**

O LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle,
and who may dwell on Your holy hill?
Those who honor those who fear the LORD.

[Silence]

Kyrie eleison. **Lord, have mercy.**

Kyrie Eleison

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me, a sinner. (Repeat)
Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus Christ.
Kyrie eleison, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Have mercy on me, a sinner.

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They shall receive a blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of their salvation;
they will never be shaken.

– Scriptures from Psalms 15 and 24

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news of our pardon in His grace:
God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us,
even when we were dead in our sins and transgressions,
made us alive together with Christ—
By grace we have been saved—
And He raised us up with Him,
and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come
He might show the exceeding riches of His grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

– Ephesians 2:4-7

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Time of Offering

Words of thanksgiving and testimonies of God's faithfulness

Christ, Our Hope In Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Chorus
O, sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal.
O, sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Chorus

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord;
Then sin and death will be destroyed.
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore.

Chorus

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The Word

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
Amos 5:18-24
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

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)

Eric Wyse's setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, *is available at Score Exchange (https://www.scoreexchange.com/scores/19379.html)*

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the Light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hellbound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory; grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him. Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

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Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker.

.Sending Forth

The Life of the Body

Rejoice, the Lord Is King (verse 4)

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King!

Setting and chorus: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.. All Rights Reserved.
Original text: Charles Wesley, 1744. Original hymn tune: Darwall's 148th, John Darwall, 1770.

We sing the final verse of our Gathering hymn here as a strong statement of joyful affirmation and faith in what we have spoken, sung, prayed, and enacted in worship today.

Benediction

Now, brothers and sisters,
as you go forth in joy into the world to love and serve the Lord—
May God Himself, the God of peace,
sanctify you through and through;
and may your whole spirit, soul, and body
be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The One who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.
– 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

"It was impossible that our lives, which were alienated from God, could return to the high and heavenly place through our own power. As a result, the Apostle Paul says He who didn't know any sin became sin for us. He freed us from the curse by taking our curse on Himself as His own. Having taken on this curse, He had 'slain' in Himself 'the enmity' that came between us and God through sin (in fact, sin was 'the enmity'). Having become what we were, He again united humanity to God through Himself. Through purity He brought our new selves, created after God's image, into a close relationship with the Father of our nature. All of God's fullness physically dwelt in Him. He drew everything that shares in His body and is similar to Him into the same grace. And He proclaims good news. . . to everyone who became a disciple of the Word up until today. The good news is that people are no longer condemned or cast out of the kingdom of God. But they are children again and returned to the position God assigned to them. . . . 'For behold,' He says, 'I and the children whom God hath given Me.' For our sakes He took part in flesh and blood and saved us. He brought us back to the place from which we strayed, becoming mere flesh and blood by sin. And so He from whom we were formerly alienated through our revolt has become our Father and our God."

– Gregory of Nyssa

Lectionary for next week: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
Zephaniah 1:7,12-18; Psalm 90:1-12;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

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