Liturgy

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, 2023
(Proper 29A)

The Reign of Christ the King

Call to Worship

Let It Rise

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the praises of the King rise among us;
Let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the joy of the King rise among us;
Let it rise.

Oh, let it rise; Oh, let it rise.

CCLI Song #2240585 ©1997, 1999 Maranatha Praise, Inc.
Holland Davis

Gathering

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us make a joyful noise
to the Rock of our salvation!
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving
and extol Him with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God,
a great King above all gods!
Know that the Lord is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His.
We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, and bless His name.
For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome;
He is a great King over all the earth.

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 47, 95 and 100

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

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

This is the last Sunday of the Christian year. Having walked and worshiped through each of the liturgical seasons—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost (what we've also described as "ordinary time") —you may have noticed something unusual about this way of marking time. Rather than keeping track and observing time according to the calendar year or some type of civic calendar (such as the academic year, secular holidays, or political seasons), focusing on and stepping through the Christian year attunes us to God's time and reminds us continually of His mighty power and saving acts throughout history as well as in our own lives.

Throughout this long season of Pentecost, we have focused our study and reflection on the ways in which we, the Church—both corporately and as individual members of Christ's body here on earth—live our lives and walk out our baptisms under the power and loving direction of the Holy Spirit. We've considered the lives and faith of the Patriarchs, the teachings and exhortations of Paul that we follow Christ's example in our daily lives and in community with one another, and Matthew's account of Jesus' earthly ministry as He taught, healed, worked miracles, and declared the coming and majestic characteristics of the Kingdom of God.

On this final Sunday of the Christian year, we celebrate and focus our worship on the Person and Work of Christ as King—He who now is seated at the right hand of the Father, reigning on the throne of majesty, "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come" (Eph. 1:21). In the wonderful words of the Heidelberg Catechism, "Jesus Christ has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit … to be our eternal King, who governs

Psalm 24 (The King of Glory)

The King of glory reigns
Over all the world.
His mighty hand sustains
The heaven and the earth.
Who may come to Him,
And seek His holy face?

He calls the pure in heart;
All whose hands are clean.
And those who love His name
Above all other things.
Humbly I will bow,
And Jesus' name confess.

He reigns, He reigns; Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.

Swing wide, you ancient gates,
Let the King come in.
His glory never fades;
Our hearts delight in Him.
Ev'ry knee will bow.
Ev'ry tongue confess:

He reigns, He reigns; Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.
(repeat)

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty.
He bore a cross of shame.
Sing Hosanna!
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty.
He rose up from the grave.
Sing Hosanna!

He reigns, He reigns; Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.
(repeat)

CCLI Song #7063703 ©2016 D. G. Publishing | Sixsteps Songs | Worship Together Music | Alletrop Music | Getty Publishing. Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty.

INVOCATION

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

Doxology (The God of Abraham Praise)

The God who reigns on high
The great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy," cry,
"Almighty King!"
Who was and is the same
And evermore shall be:
Eternal Father, great I AM,
We worship Thee.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved..
Text: Thomas Olivers, 1765; based on the Hebrew *Yigdal* of Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400.
Tune: Traditional Hebrew melody.

us by His word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the salvation He has won for us. He ascended to heaven, there to show that He is head of His church and that the Father rules all things through Him."

Ancient theologians, such as Irenaeus, Tertullian, Justin Martyr, and Ambrose, saw the messianic Psalm 24 as a picture of Christ's ascension and rule as the King of Glory.

Podcast Resource:
For more information and understanding of the importance of Christ the King Sunday, please see the link to the Featured Audio Podcast ("Christ the King Sunday") in "The Resource Center" section of the Clerestory Notes home page:
https://www.clerestorynotes.com

You can also find this interview in the Podcast Archive section of the Resource Center (scroll down the page and click on Christ the King Sunday):
https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/podcast-archive

Profession of Faith

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ:

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we would be holy and blameless before Him;
In love, He predestined us to adoption as His children,
in accordance with His pleasure and His will;
In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our sins, according to His grace;
He has made known to us the mystery of His will,
to bring all things in heaven and on earth into unity in Christ;
Having believed in Him, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
the guarantee of our inheritance in Him, to the praise of His glory.
In the exceeding greatness of His power,
He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him
at His right hand in the heavenly places:
He reigns far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,
and every name that is named,
not only in this age, but also in the age to come:
King of kings and Lord of lords.

Leader: He 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.

– from Ephesians 1:3-23

This antiphonal Profession of Faith if crafted from the Epistle reading of today's lectionary.

Prayers of Confession

Pastoral Call to Confession

Righteous God, **You have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.**
Yet we confess that we do not always bow before Him,
and are often slow to acknowledge His rule.
We too easily give allegiance to the powers and principalities of this world,
and fail to be governed as Your covenant people.

[Silence]

In Your mercy, forgive us. **Raise us to acclaim Jesus as ruler of all,**
that we may follow Him and walk always in Your ways,
to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Prayer of confession is adapted from the Book of Common Worship *(section "Christ the King"). An online edition of is available: http://bookoforder.info/Book-of-Common-Worship.pdf*

Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.

Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis, this setting of Agnus Dei *addresses the ascended Lamb of God, who alone is Lord Most High and worthy of worship.*

Agnus Dei (Canticle 20*) is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. Here's the link:*
https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei-canticle-20

Assurance of Pardon

We give thanks to the Father,
who has qualified us to share
in the inheritance of the saints in Light.
For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness
and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself
all things, whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of His cross.

– from Colossians 1:12-20

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peade

Time of Offering

Words of thanksgiving and testimonies of God's sovereign goodness

Blessed are You, Lord God, heavenly King.
All things were created through You, and for You.
In gratitude, we bring Your tithes and our offerings
as a sign of love, devotion, and faithfulness.
Through them, just as through our words and songs of praise,
we acknowledge that You are our Lord and King. Amen.

The King In All His Beauty

O, lift your eyes to Heaven, see
The Holy One eternal.
Behold the Lord of Majesty
Exalted in His temple.
As symphonies of angels' praise
Now strain to sound His glory,
Come worship, fall before His grace:
The King in all His beauty.

Chorus
How worthy, how worthy;
How worthy: the King in all His beauty.

Now see the King who wears a crown,
One made of shame and splinters,
The sacrifice for ruined man,
The substitute for sinners.
As Earth is stained with royal blood
And quakes with love and fury,
He breathes His last and bows His head:
The King in all His beauty.

Now see the Savior lifted up:
The Lamb who reigns in splendor,
The hope of every tribe and tongue,
His kingdom is forever.
Bring praise and honor to His courts,
Bring wisdom, power, blessing;
For endless ages we'll adore
The King in all His beauty.

CCLI Song #7124322 ©2015 Getty Music Hymns and Songs, Getty Music Publishing,
Love Your Enemies Publishing, Messenger Hymns. Matthew Boswell, Matthew Papa.

This liturgy focuses more specifically on the sovereignty of Christ and the text in Ephesians. If you want to focus more on the Ezekiel passage, an alternate or additional song choice suggestion is the versified setting of the twenty-third psalm, The King of Love My Shepherd Is. *The words were penned by Henry W. Baker in 1868, with the tune the ancient Irish melody known as St. Columba.*

The Word

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.
All Rights Reserved.

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. *Here's the link:*
https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer

You can hear The Lord's Prayer *in the Audio Media Studio.*
Link:
https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love!
Behold His hands and side –
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me:
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life!
Who triumphed o'er the grave;
Who rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n!
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit thro' God giv'n
From yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise,
For Thou for us hast died.
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
Adored and magnified!

To Thee be endless praise,
For Thou for us hast died.
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
Adored and magnified!

Public domain. Text: Matthew Bridges. Music: George J. Elvey (DIADEMATA)

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 No. 2514352; ©1998
International Liturgy Publications; Jim Cowan

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Crown Him With Many Crowns (reprise)

Crown Him the Lord of lords,
Who over all doth reign,
Who once on earth, th'Incarnate Word,
For ransomed sinners slain,
Now lives in realms of light,
Where saints with angels sing
Their songs before Him day and night,
Their God, Redeemer, King.

Benediction:

Beloved, 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 and embrace His sovereign power
as you daily walk out your baptisms,
dying to self and rising to new life in Him,
through the power of the Holy Spirit so graciously poured out to us.
Amen!
Now to Him who reigns far above all rule and authority
and power and dominion,
and every name that is named,
not only in this age, but also in the age to come,
King of kings and Lord of lords,
be glory, honor and dominion forever and ever.
Amen! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

"When our Christ rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, the rulers in heaven, under appointment of God, are commanded to open the gates of heaven, that the King of glory may enter in, and having ascended, may sit on the right hand of the Father until He make the enemies His footstool . . . For when the rulers of heaven saw Him of uncomely and dishonoured appearance, and inglorious, not recognizing Him, they inquired, 'Who is this King of glory?' And the Holy Spirit . . . answers them, 'The Lord of hosts, He is this King of glory!'"

– Justin Martyr

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 64:1-9;
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9;
Mark 13:24-37

Copyright ©2020, 2023, 2026 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

URL: **https://www.clerestorynotes.com**