

## *Liturgy*

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7A)

#### GATHERING

##### *Hear O Israel*

Hear, O Israel,  
The people of the Lord:  
Be still and know that He is God.  
Love the Lord your God  
With the fullness of your heart.  
With all your mind, your strength and soul.

We draw near through Christ, Who saves us;  
We draw near to the throne of grace.

Hear, O Israel, the people of the Lord:  
Come, lift your voice and praise your King.

CCLI Song #5466115 ©2008 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

We are gathered to worship the LORD,  
the God of all creation,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
**We are gathered to declare the glory, majesty,  
and steadfast love of our God.**  
Give thanks to the LORD with a whole heart;  
tell of all His wonderful works!  
**There is none like You, O LORD,  
nor are there any works like Yours.  
For You are great and do wondrous things;  
You alone are God.**  
All the nations You have made shall come  
and bow down before You, O LORD,  
and shall glorify Your name.  
**O LORD, You are my God; I will extol You;  
I will praise Your name,  
for You have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**  
We will give thanks to You, O LORD,  
with our whole heart,  
and sing of Your ways;  
for great is the glory of the LORD!

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 86 and 138, Isaiah 25:1

#### *LECTIONARY for the fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A (2026):*

*Genesis 21:8-2*  
*Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17*  
*Jeremiah 20:7-13*  
*Psalm 69:7-18*  
*Romans 6:1b-11*  
*Matthew 10:24-39*

*This fourth Sunday after Pentecost continues the longest season of the liturgical year, between the day of Pentecost and the four Sundays of Advent, called ordinary (or Proper) time. From Advent through Eastertide, the Church commemorates and celebrates specific acts of God in earthly history as He personally intervenes to bring about the salvation of creatures and all of the created order. The season after Pentecost is an extended time of study and reflection on the ways in which God's people walk and live, in all aspects of our lives, under the guidance and power of His Spirit. We use the term "ordinary" not because this season is in some way less important, but to highlight the contrast between these weeks and the other, "extraordinary" liturgical seasons and because we count these weeks in an ordinal way. That's why you'll see the designation "Proper" followed by a number to designate its place within this long season.*

*The lectionary for this week directs our attention to God's power, love, faithfulness and holiness, and reminds us of our identity and hope in Christ: We have been baptized into Him, "buried with Him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." The pattern of death and resurrection that we share with Christ, as Romans 6 tells us, is reflected in the need and blessing that we daily die to sin and to self, that we might daily rise to newness of life. This deep rhythm of our spiritual lives, which is manifested in every part of our earthly lives, is often termed "walking out our baptisms."*

## *Bless the Lord*

For He is great and mighty.  
For He is great and greatly to be praised.  
For He is great in mercy.  
I will bless His holy name.  
For He is great in power.  
For He is great, a fortress is our God.  
For He is great in strength and honor.  
I will bless the Lord of all.

Bless the Lord, bless the Lord,  
At all times, at all times.  
Bless the Lord, bless the Lord,  
At all times, at all times –  
I will bless You with all that is within me,  
I will bless the Lord.

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Israel Houghton and Cindy Ratcliff.

## INVOCATION

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

### *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's redeeming love.

Hitherto Thy love has blest me,  
Thou hast brought me to this place.  
And I know Thy hand will bring me  
Safely home by Thy good grace.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger  
Bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let Your goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Your courts above.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Your courts above.

Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Your courts above.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2003 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Text, Robert Robinson. Hymn tune: NETTLETON; traditional American melody,  
John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

*Music for Ellen's setting of Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for three-part vocal harmony ("vocals").*

*This wonderful, traditional American hymn vividly echoes the themes of the text in Romans 6, as it intones our commitment to walk faithfully with the Savior who sought us, redeemed us, and keeps us.*

*Here's the link to the commentary and sheet music samples in the Music Room:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/come-thou-fount-every-blessing>

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in the words of this creed of the ancient church:

### *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day He rose again;  
He ascended to heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Incline Your ear, O LORD, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.  
*Preserve my life, for I am devoted to You;  
You are my God; save Your servant, who trusts in You.*

[Silence]

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for to You do I cry all the day.  
Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.  
*For You, O LORD, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.*  
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.  
*In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me.*

[Silent confessions]

You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.  
**Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;  
unite my heart to fear Your name.**

— Psalm 86:3-7

### *The Jesus Prayer*

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

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*“We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.” (Romans 6:9-10)*

*This time of confession uses verses from today's Psalm text as the prayer of contrition.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is good news indeed:

All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death.  
*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father,  
so we too might walk in newness of life.*

— from Romans 6:3-4

**I will praise You, O LORD my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify Your name forever.**

**For great is Your steadfast love.**

— Psalm 86:12-13a

**Thanks be to God!**

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

**Sovereign Lord, in worship, with joy and thanksgiving,  
we offer to You what You have first given to us –  
our moments and days, our hands and feet,  
our voices, our lips, our minds,  
our silver and gold, our wills,  
our hearts, our love, our whole selves.  
May we be always, only, all for Thee.**

### *Take My Life*

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.  
Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry power as Your choose.

### *Chorus:*

Here am I, all of me;  
Take my life, it's all for Thee.

Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Your feet its treasure store;  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

CCLI Song # 4162843 ©2003 worshiptogether.com songs;  
Chris Tomlin | Frances Ridley Havergal | Henri Abraham Cesar Malan | Louie Giglio

*This corporate prayer, written to underscore the truth that it is an act of worship when we bring God's tithes and our offerings to Him, draws phrases from the sung prayer of commitment.*

*The words of Jesus from Matthew 10:39: "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."*

## THE WORD

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Genesis 21:8-2   | Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 |
| Jeremiah 20:7-13 | Psalm 69:7-18        |
| Romans 6:1b-11   | Matthew 10:24-39     |

## 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.**

*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.

## *Take My Life*

Holiness, holiness is what I long for;  
Holiness is what I need.  
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

### *Chorus:*

So take my heart and form it; take my mind, transform it;  
Take my will, conform it to Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

### *Verse 2*

Faithfulness, faithfulness...

### *Verse 3*

Righteousness, righteousness...

CCLI Song #1617154 ©1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Scott Underwood

## SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

### *Bless the Lord (reprise)*

Bless the Lord, bless the Lord, at all times, at all times.  
Bless the Lord, bless the Lord, at all times, at all times –  
I will bless You with all that is within me,  
I will bless the Lord.

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### Benediction:

Beloved, we go forth into the world, remembering our baptisms with joy,  
to love and serve the Lord, our sovereign and holy King,  
and to walk in His footsteps, to the glory of His name.

### **Amen!**

Now to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

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

### *A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“The fear of the Lord is our cross. Those who are crucified no longer have the power to move or turn their limbs in any direction they please. Similarly, we shouldn't fix our wishes and desires on what pleases and delights us now, but according to how the Law of the Lord constrains us. Those who are fastened to the wood of the cross no longer consider present things or think about their preferences. They aren't distracted by anxiety and care for tomorrow and aren't disturbed by the desire for any possession. They aren't inflamed by pride, strife, or rivalry. They don't grieve during present pain and don't remember past injuries. For while they are still breathing in the body, they consider themselves dead to every earthly thing. Instead, they send the thoughts of their heart ahead to where they know they will shortly follow. So when we are crucified by fear of the Lord, we should definitely be dead to all these things. That is, we shouldn't only die to wickedness, but also to every earthly thing. We should fix the eye of our minds onto the place we constantly hope to reach. For in this way we can destroy all our desires and fleshly affections.”

– John Cassian

**Lectionary for next week:** Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;  
Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

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