

Liturgy

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 6, Year B

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates and sustains us.
**He has made us new creations in Christ;
the old has passed away; behold, all things become new!**

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth:

Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious.

Say to God: How awesome are Your works! Your power is very great.

**All the earth will worship You, and sing praises to You;
They will sing praises to Your name.**

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
*To declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
and Your faithfulness by night.*

**For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;
at the works of Your hands I sing for joy!**

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 66 and 92

Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

You made the starry hosts, You traced the mountain peaks,
You paint the evening skies with wonders.
The earth, it is Your throne from dessert to the sea;
All nature testifies Your splendor.

Chorus 1

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
Sing His greatness, all creation.
Praise the Lord, raise your voice,
You heights and all you depths,
From furthest east to west,
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

You reached into the dust, in love Your Spirit breathed;
You formed us in Your very likeness
To know Your wondrous works, to tell Your mighty deeds,
To join the everlasting chorus.

Chorus 1

Let symphonies resound, let drums and choirs ring out,
All heaven hear the sound of worship.
Let every nation bring its honors to the King,
A roar of harmonies eternal.

Chorus 2

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
Sing His greatness, all creation.
Praise the Lord, raise your voice:
You heights and all you depths, from furthest east to west,
You distant burning stars, all creatures near and far,
From sky to sea to shore, sing out forevermore,
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

*LECTIONARY for the fourth Sunday
after Pentecost, Year B:*

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Psalm 20

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm 92:1-4,12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Mark 4:26-34

We come this week to the fourth Sunday in this longest season of the liturgical year, between the day of Pentecost and the first Sunday of Advent. In contrast to the seasons from Advent through Eastertide, when 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 of 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.

The lectionary for this week continues our focus on things seen and things unseen, and on the relationship between sight (both physical and spiritual) and faith as we live and walk out our life-long journeys as followers of Christ. In the epistle we find two familiar verses—"We walk by faith, not by sight," and "Since we are in Christ, we are new creations; the old has passed away, behold, all things have become new"—which surround a passage that exhorts and encourages us in our knowledge of and relationship with Christ. In the gospel, we read Mark's narrative of two of Jesus' parables in which He teaches that the growth of the kingdom of God is not discernable by human sight alone. And in Samuel, we read of the prophet's hard lesson in expecting God's will to conform to his (Samuel's) physical perceptions. Sent to anoint one of the sons of Jesse to be king of Israel in place of Saul, Samuel thought surely Jesse's firstborn, Eliab, would be God's choice. But the LORD replied, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

INVOCATION

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

All Creatures of Our God and King (verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son;
And praise the Spirit, Three in One.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: St. Francis of Assisi, c. 1225. Transl. William H. Draper, 1919.
Hymn tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in these words from the second epistle of the Apostle Paul
to the Corinthians:

We believe that Christ died for all,
so that we who live might no longer live for ourselves,
but for Him who for our sake died and was raised again.

**Therefore, since we are in Christ, we are new creations;
the old has passed away;
behold, all things have become new.**

Now all these things are from God,
who reconciled us to Himself through Christ
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, –

**That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself,
not counting their trespasses against them, –**

And He has entrusted to us the word of reconciliation.

**God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,
so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

– from 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

How blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who find great delight in His commands.

*How blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.*

How blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
who seek Him with their whole heart;
who also do no wrong, but walk in His ways!

– Psalm 112:1, 119:1-3

[Silence]

Many of the epistle readings in this season lend themselves particularly well for use as professions and declarations of faith. Here, as last week, we use the passage from 2 Corinthians as a responsive reading, for one reader (or perhaps more, if desired) with the congregations reading the verses in bold print.

Lord Jesus Christ, whose will all things obey:
**Pardon what I have done and grant that I, a sinner,
may sin no more.**
**Lord, I believe that, though I do not deserve it,
You can cleanse me from all my sins.**
**Lord, I know that man looks upon the face,
but You see the heart.**

[Silent confessions]

**Send Your spirit into my inmost being,
to take possession of my soul and body.
Without You I cannot be saved;
with You to protect me, I long for Your salvation.
And now I ask You for Your salvation.
And now I ask You for wisdom;
deign of Your great goodness to help and defend me.
Guide my heart, almighty God,
that I may remember Your presence day and night.
Amen.**

– a prayer attributed to the Desert Fathers, 5th – 6th centuries

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul,
And bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul,
Who leads me into life.

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Songs and Prayers from Taizé; Words from Psalm 103.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I love the LORD,
because He has heard my voice and my supplications.
**Because He inclined His ear unto me,
therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.**
**Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.**
Return to your rest, O my soul,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
**He has delivered our souls from death,
our eyes from tears, our feet from stumbling.**
We will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

– from Psalm 116:1-9

Passing of the Peace

*This prayer of confession is contained
in an online resource, Christian Prayers
Ancient and New.
[http://www.swordofthespirit.net/
bulwark/november09p8.htm](http://www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/november09p8.htm)
(“Living Bulwark: sources of strength
and renewal for Christian life and
mission in today’s world. The online
magazine of The Sword of the Spirit.)*

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

My Lips will Praise You

My lips will praise You,
For You are holy.
My voice will ever
Rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You,
For You are lovely,
And You have called me
To become Your own.

I am Your own,
And I will worship You alone.
I am Your own,
I am Your child.
I am Your own,
And I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own,
And I will love You.

CCLI Song #2552912 ©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music. Twila Paris.

THE WORD

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Psalm 20
Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 91”1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-17
Mark 4:26-34

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!

Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven,
Your name is holy,
Your name is holy, our Father.
Your kingdom come,
And Your will be done
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials;
Save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom,
We sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours –
Forever.
Amen. Amen. Amen!

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Everywhere

Oh, the way the sea
Crashes on the shore,
And with endless praise,
Glorifies Your name;
Oh, the mountains green
Stand with faithful feet,
Raised to point their song,
And declare You King.

Chorus:

I can see You everywhere,
All around me, in the air.
You surround my heart
With songs of rare belief;
Creation groans, and leans on You.
How I wish that I could, too.
Teach me more to be like You.

You wrap Yourself in light,
And You ride upon the wind.
You cause the sun to shine,
And obey to rise again.
Of You I stand in awe,
And fail with words to say,
All of what You are
Is why I want to stay.

Chorus

Rita Springer. ©2004 Kindred Joy Music.

Music for this setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet, and as a solo/melody line with piano accompaniment on request. Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/our-father-heaven>

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
| worshiptogether.com songs. Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin
Words: Joachim Neander; Transl. Catherine Winkworth. Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

Benediction:

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

Amen.

And as we are sent forth in His name,
grant that we may more and more see as You see;
and fill us, we pray, with the oil of Your Spirit
as we walk out our baptisms in the world,
loving and serving the Lord.

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: 1 Samuel 17:1-18:6
Psalm 9:9-20
Psalm 133
Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

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