

Liturgy

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 8A)

GATHERING

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth:

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

I will sing of Your steadfast love, O LORD, forever!

With my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations!

We declare that Your steadfast love is established forever.

Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

All Your works praise you, O LORD,

and Your faithful servants bless you.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;

Your dominion endures throughout all ages.

For the LORD is faithful in all His works and merciful in all His deeds.

His steadfast love endures forever.

Blessed are those who know the joyful sound!

They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your presence.

**In Your name we rejoice all day long, and celebrate Your righteousness,
for You are our glory and strength.**

The LORD has shown forth His glory.

Come, let us joyfully lift His praises.

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 66, 89, 145

Sing to the Lord

Eternal, Immortal God of all glory,
Fearful in wonders and worthy of praise;
The Alpha, Omega, Lord God Almighty,
Wonderful, Beautiful, Ancient of Days.

Chorus

And I sing praise, I give You my heart,
I sing praise, I give You my all,
I sing praise –
Sing to the Lord.

Redeemer, Messiah, Rock of the ages,
A help in trouble, a tower of strength;
Emmanuel, Jehovah, God of Creation,
Wonderful, Beautiful, King of all kings.

Bridge

God of compassion and
God of all gladness and
Your tender mercies
Are new every morning, and
God of compassion and
God of all gladness and
You dance around me,
You dance around me.

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*LECTIONARY for the fifth Sunday
after Pentecost, Year A (2023):*

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalms 13

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

This week brings us to the fifth Sunday in this 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, which this year contains twenty-six Sundays, 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 fifth Sunday after Pentecost invites us to consider God's faithfulness, His bountiful provision, and His compassionate heart as revealed in the narrative of Abraham's obedience and willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac; in Paul's exhortation that we embrace fully the gift of eternal life in Christ; Jesus' encouragement that He is with us constantly as we minister to those around us; and in the promises and words of comfort echoed in the Psalm and Jeremiah passages.

The main focus of this liturgy and the teaching time is on the Matthew passage, drawing from the arc of Jesus' teaching in Matthew chapters 9 and

INVOCATION

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

Sung:

And I sing praise, I give You my heart,
I sing praise, I give You my all,
I sing praise —

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord,
The Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
How all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in these words from the Heidelberg Catechism:

**I am called Christian
because by faith I am a member of Christ,
and so I share in His anointing.**

**I am anointed
to confess His name,
to present myself to Him as a living sacrifice of thanks,
to strive with a good conscience
against sin and the devil in this life,
and afterward to reign with Christ
over all creation, for all eternity.**

**We call him "our Lord" because —
not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood —
He has set us free
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,
and has bought us, body and soul,
to be His very own.**

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 32, 34

10, in which He instructs His disciples to go out into the world and proclaim, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And nestled within these chapters is Jesus' teaching that necessarily accompanies this instruction: that their discipleship and following of Him will be costly.

We sing the chorus of the Gathering song, Sing to the Lord, somewhat more slowly, as an introduction to this classic hymn of joyous praise. We use the first three verses here, and close the service with the fourth joyful, declarative verse.

Ellen's setting of Praise to the Lord, the Almighty is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for keyboard (suitable for piano or organ, also). Please see the commentary on this hymn setting for reflections on the text, performance suggestions, and creative ideas for using the hymn verses throughout a worship service. (In this Invocation set, the chorus of Sing to the Lord becomes the introduction to Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, so the 14-measure introduction of Ellen's setting is omitted.) Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/praise-lord-almighty>

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The apostle Paul exhorts us to consider ourselves dead to sin,
but alive to God in Christ Jesus:

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies. ...
but present yourselves to God
as those who have been brought from death to life,
and offer every part of yourselves to Him
as an instrument of righteousness.
For sin will no longer have dominion over you,
for you are not under law but under grace.”
— from Romans 6:11-14

Lord, You have called us to become Your own. We were bought with a price, the price of Your life and blood. We love You, and we want to live for You.

[Silence]

Lord, help us to spread Your fragrance everywhere we go.
Flood our souls with Your spirit and life. Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel Your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus!

[Silence]

Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine.
Let us preach You without preaching, not by words only but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You.
— adapted from a prayer by John Henry Newman

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph only through His power.

May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing, this is victory.

Words: Kate B. Kilkinson, 1912 Hymn tune: ST. LEONARDS, Arthur Barham-Gould, 1925.
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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Now that you have been set free from sin
and have become slaves of God,
the benefit you reap leads to holiness,
and the result is eternal life.
For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
— Romans 6:22-23

**I trust in Your steadfast love, O LORD;
My heart rejoices in Your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD, for He has dealt bountifully with me!**
— Psalm 13:5-6

Passing of the Peace

The prayer of confession today is adapted from a prayer by John Henry Newman, a 19th-century British Catholic theologian. Newman's original prayer and Mother Teresa's modification of it are widely available on the web.

*Ellen's setting of May the Mind of Christ, My Savior is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn settings section) as a lead sheet.
Here's the link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/may-mind-christ-my-savior>

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

The Compassion Hymn

There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us
When the radiance of heaven came to rescue the lost;
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress
For Your streams of forgiveness and the shade of Your rest.

And with compassion for the hurting, You reached out Your hand
As the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again;
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears,
Heard the sigh of the weary, let the children draw near.

Chorus

What boundless love, what fathomless grace
You have shown us, O God of compassion!
Each day we live, an offering of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion.

We stood beneath the cross of Calv'ry and gazed on Your face,
At the thorns of oppression and the wounds of disgrace;
For surely You have borne our suffering and carried our grief
As You pardoned the scoffer and showed grace to the thief.

Chorus

How beautiful the feet that carry this gospel of peace
To the fields of injustice and the valleys of need;
To be a voice of hope and healing, to answer the cries
Of the hungry and helpless with the mercy of Christ.

Chorus

CCLI Song #5468807 ©2008 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

THE WORD

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalms 13

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

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)

Psalm 62 (My Soul Finds Rest)

My soul finds rest in God alone,
My rock and my salvation;
A fortress strong against my foes,
And I will not be shaken.
Though lips may bless, and hearts may curse,
And lies, like arrows, pierce me,
I'll fix my heart on righteousness;
I'll look to Him who hears me.

Chorus

O praise Him, hallelujah,
My Delight and my Reward.
Everlasting, never failing;
My Redeemer, my God.

Find rest, my soul, in God alone
Amid the world's temptations.
When evil seeks to take a hold,
I'll cling to my salvation.
Though riches come, and riches go,
Don't set your heart upon them.
The fields of hope in which I sow
Are harvested in heaven.

Chorus

I'll set my gaze on God alone,
And trust in Him completely;
With ev'ry day pour out my soul,
And He will prove His mercy.
Though life is but a fleeting breath,
A sigh too brief to measure,
My King has crushed the curse of death,
And I am His forever.

Chorus

O praise Him, O praise Him; Hallelujah, hallelujah!
(3 times)

Chorus

CCLI Song #5040902 ©2007 Thankyou Music. Stuart Townend, Aaron Keyes.

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)

Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.
Gladly, for aye we adore Him!

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Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as we go forth into the world
to love and serve the Lord,
let us remember with thankful hearts
that He has called us into the company of those
who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will.
He has welcomed us to Himself,
and has given us the privilege and charge
to love and serve others as He has loved us.

Amen.

Now to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Why did Christ urge His disciples to take up the cross and follow Him? . . . With respect to the suffering He would experience and His disciples would endure, He suggests, ‘For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life, shall find it.’ And because His disciples must suffer for His sake, Christ said to them, ‘Behold, I send you prophets and wise men and scribes; and some of them ye shall kill and crucify.’ . . . Therefore He knew both those who would suffer persecution and those who would be whipped and killed because of Him. He didn’t speak about any other cross but of the suffering He would experience. . . . As a result, He gave them this encouragement: ‘Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to send both soul and body into hell.’ He urged them to hold tightly to their professions of faith in Him. For He promised to confess before His Father those who confess His name before men. But He announced that He would deny those who deny Him and would be ashamed of those who were ashamed to confess allegiance to Him.”

– Irenaeus

Lectionary readings for next week: Genesis 24:34-67; Psalm 45:10-17;
Song of Solomon 2:8-13;
Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14;
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-30

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Singing the last verse of our Gathering hymn bookends the service with a declaration of praise and joy!