

*Liturgy*

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 7, Year B

GATHERING

*The Name of the Lord*

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Most High!  
(repeat)

The name of the Lord is a strong tower;  
The righteous run into it and they are safe.  
(repeat)

Holy is the name of the Lord . . .

Glory to the name of the Lord . . .

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Clinton Utterbach.

We are gathered to praise and give thanks to the LORD with a whole heart,  
and to tell of all His wonders! So let us be glad and exult in Him,  
and sing praises to the name of the Most High!

**The name of the LORD is a strong tower;  
the righteous run into it and are saved!**

Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war,  
and my fingers for battle.

*He is my lovingkindness and my fortress,  
my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield in whom I take refuge.*

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.

And those who know Your name put their trust in You,  
for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me.  
But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame  
those who hate us.

*Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear;  
though war arise against me, even then I will be confident.*

Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned as king forever;  
Declare His deeds among the peoples!

I will sing of Your strength;  
I will sing aloud of Your steadfast love in the morning.

*For You have been to me a fortress and a refuge  
in the day of distress.*

**O my Strength, I will sing praises to You,  
for You, O God, are my fortress,  
the God who shows me steadfast love.**

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 9, 44, 59, 144; Prov. 18:10

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

*1 Samuel 17:1-18:16*

*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*

*This week marks the fifth Sunday of “ordinary” time, the long season between the day of Pentecost and the four Sundays of Advent, when we—God’s people—focus our study and reflection on the ways in which we walk and live, in all aspects of our lives, under the continual guidance and all-sufficient power of the Holy Spirit. In this longest period of the liturgical year, the emphasis of the epistle texts is on the Church—our journey of faith, our identity in Christ, and our living together as Christ’s Body here on earth. The gospel passages, in Year B taken from Mark’s writings and in a few weeks from the book of John, direct our attention to Christ’s earthly ministry as He interacted with, taught, healed, and met the needs of the people, all the while training the disciples. In Year B, the main Old Testament readings trace the history of our faith and its foundations as recorded in the narratives of the ancient kingdom of Israel. The second (“alternate”) Old Testament readings are chosen to complement the gospel texts, but—as we see each week—all of the lectionary texts “speak” to one another in interesting ways that illumine each the other and reveal new insights into the Scripture and into God’s will and plan for His people. Each of the Psalm passages shows us how these narratives and highlights of our gracious God’s character and mighty acts were commemorated and incorporated into His people’s ancient worship of Him.*

*The lectionary this week continues the themes of how we see and perceive the conditions around us, and the relationship between sight (both physical and spiritual) and faith as we live and walk out our lifelong journeys as Christ’s followers. Here we find the well-loved Bible story of David and Goliath. David, though “a youth,”*

## *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe –  
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruèl hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He –  
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him –  
His rage we can endure, For lo, his doom is sure:  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also –  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:  
His kingdom is forever.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2015 Ellen Koehler.  
Words and hymn tune: Martin Luther, 1529.  
Transl. from German to English by Frederic H. Hedge, 1853.

## INVOCATION

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

## *You Are Lord*

You are my light and salvation,  
Whom shall I fear?  
You are the strength of all my days,  
Of whom shall I be afraid?  
Though war may rise against me,  
Of this will I be sure; that

### *Chorus:*

I will bless the Lord forever, I'll bless Your holy Name.  
Yes, I will bless the Lord forever, I'll bless Your holy Name.

Lord, it is You I desire, it's You that I seek;  
To live with You in Your house forever,  
Beholding Your beauty.  
And in the time of trouble, of this will I be sure; that

### *Chorus*

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Darlene Zschech and Jennifer Va'a

*was already known as “a mighty man of valor, a warrior” (2 Samuel 16:18). Nevertheless, the Philistine champion, Goliath “the giant.” was a formidable enemy. Yet David, armed with his staff, his sling, five carefully chosen stones—and most importantly, the assurance that the LORD would save him and deliver Goliath into his hand—victoriously prevailed over the army ranged against Israel. Such a wonderful narrative! With so much encouragement and so many lessons for us, in so many ways! And as we read through the passages in Job and the Psalms, we see descriptions and resonances of praise for God's deliverance in similarly outward-appearing, dire circumstances; just as we read in Paul's account of his victories through Christ, and in Mark's account of Christ calming the storm, wind, and waves to the relief and astonishment of the terrified disciples. As you read through this liturgy (the readings, the prayers, the songs), ask the Lord what He would have you see about your walk with Him, and in what ways He wants—today—to increase your faith in Him.*

*Music for Ellen's setting of A Mighty Fortress Is Our God is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet. (It is available scored for organ or keyboard on request.)*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/mighty-fortress-our-god>

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,  
firmly rooted and built up in Him and established in your faith,  
just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

**In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,  
and He has made us complete in Him,  
who is the head of all rule and authority, principality and power.**

*In Him we also were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands,  
in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.*

**We were buried with Him in baptism,  
in which we were also raised up with Him through faith  
in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.**

When we were dead in our sins and in the uncircumcision of our flesh,  
God made us alive together with Christ.

*And He forgave us all our transgressions,  
having cancelled out the certificate of debt against us  
with its legal demands, which was hostile to us.*

He set this aside, having nailed it to the cross.

*When He disarmed the rulers and authorities,  
He made a public display of them,  
having triumphed over them through Him.*

**We hold fast to the Head, Christ Jesus the Lord,  
from whom the entire body,  
being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments,  
grows with a growth which is from God.**

– from Colossians 2:6-19

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

In You, LORD, we have taken refuge;  
let us never be put to shame;  
deliver us in Your righteousness.

**Turn Your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;  
be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.  
Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,  
for You are my refuge.**

You are indeed our rock and fortress;  
for Your name's sake, lead us and guide us.

– from Psalm 31:1-5

Most merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding,  
and You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.

Yet too often we have strayed from Your way.

**We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not  
loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as our-  
selves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

[Silent confessions]

**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of  
Your Name. Amen.**

## *The Lord Is My Light*

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation;  
In God I trust, in God I trust.

*Songs and Prayers from Taizé; Copyright ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.*

*This passage from Colossians, though  
not included in today's lectionary,  
speaks directly to our place in Christ  
and the victories we share because we  
hold fast to Him.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the word of the Lord from Psalm 118.  
God's promise of pardon and love:

Let those who fear the LORD say,  
"His steadfast love endures forever."  
*Out of my distress I called upon the LORD;  
I sought the LORD and He answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.*

**The LORD is my strength and my song;  
He has become my salvation.  
I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and declare the deeds of the LORD.**

– from Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17

**Thanks be to God!**

## *Passing of the Peace*

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

### *What A Beautiful Name*

You were the Word at the beginning,  
One with God, the Lord Most High.  
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,  
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.  
What a beautiful Name it is; nothing compares to this.  
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,  
So, Jesus, You brought heaven down.  
My sin was great; Your love was greater.  
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,  
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.  
What a wonderful Name it is; nothing compares to this:  
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.  
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You; the veil tore before You.  
You silence the boast of sin and grave.  
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,  
For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival, You have no equal;  
Now and forever, God, You reign.  
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory;  
Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,  
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.  
What a powerful Name it is; nothing can stand against;  
What a powerful Name it is: the Name of Jesus.

## THE WORD

1 Samuel 17:1-18:16      Job 38:1-11  
Psalm 9:9-20              Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32  
Psalm 133                  2 Corinthians 6:1-13

## 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* (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.

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*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*

*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. You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio.*

*Here are links:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer>

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/product/audio/lords-prayer-full>

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.

#### SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

*Psalm 62 (Chorus)*

*Chorus*

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

#### Benediction:

Now as you go forth into the world, walking out your baptisms,  
to love and serve the Lord –

May you be made strong

with all the strength that comes from His glorious power,

filled with the knowledge of His will

in all spiritual wisdom and understanding;

that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him,

bearing fruit in every good work

and growing in the knowledge of God.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

– from Colossians 1:9-11

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

“Let us dwell on the fact that while the Lord is with us, our enemies can't hurt us. When they approach us, they conform to the state they find us in. They adapt their delusions to the condition of our minds. Therefore, if they find us timid and confused, they will attack us like robbers, finding our minds unguarded. . . . But if they see us rejoicing in the Lord, contemplating future bliss, mindful of the Lord, regarding all things to be in His hand, and knowing that no evil spirit has any strength against Christians, . . . our enemies are defeated and turned backwards by the strength of these thoughts. Seeing Job fortified in this way, the enemy withdrew from him. But finding Judas unguarded, the enemy took him captive. Therefore, if we want to look down on the enemy, we must always think about the things of the Lord. Our souls must always rejoice in hope. Then we will see that the devil's snares are like smoke and the evil ones will flee rather than pursue us.”

– Athanasius

**Lectionary for next week:** 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130  
Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

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