

## *Liturgy*

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
(Proper 9A)

### GATHERING

#### *Ancient of Days*

Blessing and honor, glory and power,  
Be unto the Ancient of Days.  
From ev'ry nation, all of creation,  
Bow before the Ancient of Days.  
Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,  
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne in worship;  
You will be exalted, O God,  
And Your kingdom shall not pass away,  
O Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth;  
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.  
For none can compare to Your matchless worth;  
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

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Words and Music by Gary Sadler and Jamie Harvill.

Who is like You, O God, Majestic in holiness,  
Awesome in praises, working wonders?  
**Your faithfulness surrounds You, O God;**  
**Your steadfast love is established forever!**  
One generation shall praise Your works to another,  
and shall declare Your mighty acts.  
**They shall celebrate the fame of Your abundant goodness,**  
**and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.**  
All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,  
and all Your faithful shall bless You.  
**They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,**  
**and tell of Your power,**  
**to make known to the children of men Your mighty acts**  
**and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.**

Who is like You, O Ancient of Days?  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
Your dominion endures throughout all ages.  
**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;**  
**let every creature praise His holy name forever and ever!**

— from Exodus 15:11, Psalm 145

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

*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 11:16-19, 25-30*

*This week brings us to the sixth Sunday in this longest season of the liturgical year, sometimes referred to as an extended season of Pentecost but more commonly called ordinary (or Proper) time. In contrast to the shorter seasons of 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, in the season after Pentecost the Church observes 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 continues our focus on God's eternal power and dominion, His steadfast covenant love, and His constant faithfulness. We see these attributes (and more!) in God's miraculous guidance and provision as Abraham's servant journeyed to his master's home country to seek a wife for Isaac; in Christ's direction and promise that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light; in our responses of joy and confident expectation in the presence of the Lord; and in God's call and instructions to us for holy living.*

*The main focus of this liturgy and the teaching time is God's gracious and*

## *O, Worship the King*

O worship the King, all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.  
Oh, girded with praise.

O tell of His might and sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is the path on the wings of the storm.  
Oh, sing of His grace.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.  
Oh, worship the King, worship the King.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

Redeemer and Friend;  
He's our Redeemer and Friend,  
Oh, worship the King.

Redeemer and Friend;  
He's our Redeemer and Friend,  
Oh, worship the King.  
Worship the King.

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Words: Robert Grant, in *Christian Psalmody*, 1833; adapted from William Kethe,  
the Genevan *Psalter*, 1561. Hymn tune: LYONS, attributed to Johann M. Hadyn.

## INVOCATION

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

Sung:

Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.  
Redeemer and Friend, He's our Redeemer and Friend,  
Oh, worship the King. Worship the King.

## *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Holy God, we praise Thy name;  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in Heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

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Hymn tune: TE DEUM. Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; transl. Clarence A. Walworth.

*comforting provision of help, strength and encouragement within that high calling—that often seems so difficult and out of reach—found in the continuous arc of the text found in Romans 6 and 7. We thus look not only at “the human condition” Paul discusses in Romans 7:15-25, but at the way this pericope fits into the whole story and into our identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, that we might live in the promise that we, too, may walk with Him in newness of life. (see Romans 6)*

*(This arc reaches a glorious conclusion, and points to the completion of the Whole Story of God as revealed in Romans 8, which is in next week's readings.)*

*Ellen's setting of O, Worship the King is available as a lead sheet by request. You may email us at: [clerestorynotes@gmail.com](mailto:clerestorynotes@gmail.com)*

*Ellen's setting of Holy God, We Praise Thy Name is available in the sheet music catalog (hymn settings) as a lead sheet. It is available scored for vocal line with piano accompaniment and as a choral arrangement on request.*

*Here's a link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-god-we-praise-thy-name>

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe that Christ died for all,  
so that we who live might no longer live for ourselves,  
but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf.  
*Therefore, since we are in Christ, we are new creatures;  
the old things passed away; behold, all things have become new.*  
Now these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ  
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, —  
*Namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,  
not counting their trespasses against them, —*  
And He has committed 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.*

— Based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

We call upon You, O God, for You will answer.  
**Incline Your ear, and hear our prayers,  
and show us the wonders of Your steadfast love.** — from Psalm 17:6-7

[Silence]

Most merciful God,  
**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 ourselves.**  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
**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.**

*This simple, traditional prayer of confession and repentance is from the Book of Common Prayer (Morning Prayer, rite two).*

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;  
Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

CCLI Song #3204324 ©1989 Celebration. Betty Carr Pulkingham

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord:  
**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** — 1 John 1:9  
*The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*  
The LORD is good to all,  
and His compassion is over all that He has made.  
*The LORD is near to all who call on Him,  
to all who call on Him in truth.*  
He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him;  
He hears their cry, and saves them.  
The LORD watches over all who love Him. — Psalm 145:8-9, 18-20a  
**Thanks be to God!**

## Passing of the Peace

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

### *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)

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## THE WORD

Genesis 24:34-67

Psalm 45:10-17

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

## 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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### *Be Unto Your Name*

We are a moment, You are forever,  
Lord of the ages, God before time.  
We are a vapor, You are eternal,  
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

#### *Chorus*

Holy, holy, Lord God, Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.  
Highest praises, honor and glory  
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the healer,  
Jesus Redeemer, mighty to save.  
You are the love song we'll sing forever,  
Bowing before You, blessing Your name.

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### *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

All hail the power of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred every tongue on this terrestrial ball  
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall;  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Words, verses 1-3:: Edward Perronet, 1779; final verse: John Rippon, 1787.  
Hymn tune: CORONATION, Oliver Holden

*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>

*Music for Ellen's setting of All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet. (Key of F, modulating to G for the third verse). As an alternative, a setting of the more familiar hymn tune (CORONATION) is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for 3-part vocals. (Key of D, modulating to E and F for verses 3 and 4).*

*Here's the link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/all-hail-power-jesus-name>

SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*Ancient of Days*

Blessing and honor, glory and power,  
Be unto the Ancient of Days.  
From ev'ry nation, all of creation,  
Bow before the Ancient of Days.  
Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,  
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne in worship;  
You will be exalted, O God,  
And Your kingdom shall not pass away,  
O Ancient of Days.

CCLI Song #798108 ©1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music;  
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Benediction:

Beloved, the glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of Jesus Christ overcame and triumphed over the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him. As we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, Christ our King – walking out our baptisms with grateful hearts – let us always remember His promise that we may walk in that same newness of life with Him.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—  
to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

– Jude 24-25

**Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“Those who have not denied themselves cannot follow Jesus. For choosing to follow Jesus and to actually follow Him springs from no ordinary courage. Those who deny themselves wipe out their former, wicked lives. For example, those who once were immoral deny their immoral selves and become self-controlled forever. . . . Those who have become righteous don't confess themselves but Christ. Those who find wisdom, because they possess wisdom, also confess Christ. And those who, ‘with the heart believe unto righteousness, and with the mouth make confession unto salvation,’ and testify for Christ's works by confessing them to others, will be confessed by Christ before His Father in heaven. . . . As a result, let every thought, every purpose, every word, and every action become a denial of ourselves and a testimony about Christ and in Christ. I am persuaded that the perfect person's every action is a testimony to Christ Jesus and that abstinence from every sin is a denial of self, leading to Christ. Those people are crucified with Christ. They take up their own crosses to follow Him who, for our sake, bears His own cross.”

– Origen

*Lectionary readings for next week:* Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112;  
Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:1-13;  
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*We reprise the first part of our Gathering song as we are sent out into the world to love and serve the Lord with joy and expectation of His presence in our lives.*

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