

Liturgy

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 8, Year B

GATHERING

We extol You, O LORD,
for You have lifted us up.

**You have restored us,
and have given us life.**

Sing praises to the LORD, all you His faithful ones,
And give thanks to His holy name.

**O LORD, by Your favor You have given us strength,
You are our Rock and our Salvation.**

You have turned our mourning into dancing.

**You have removed our sackcloth and clothed us with joy,
So that our souls may praise You and not be silent.**

O LORD, our God, we will give thanks to You forever!

– from Psalm 30

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again,
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me –
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger;
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing –
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending –
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore.

Chorus

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Thankyou Music | worshiptogether.com songs. Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman.

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

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Psalm 130

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

This sixth Sunday after Pentecost continues the longest season of the liturgical year, sometimes described 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 see the designation "Proper" followed by a number to designate its place within this long season.)

The lectionary this week directs our attention to theme of generosity. Why is it so important to God that we be generous people, not only in our actions but in our hearts and spirits? What does it mean to be generous, and what does it look like? What does God's generosity have to do with His grace? What does our generosity have to do with confession and repentance? And how might we become more like Christ, reflecting and modeling His gracious generosity? In the epistle reading, Paul exhorts the Corinthian church to be generous to fellow believers in need, because in this way they would take part in the grace of Christ and take on His character. (Re-

INVOCATION

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness:
Morning by morning
New mercies I see.
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Chorus

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Chorus

CCLI Song #18723 ©1923, Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Company
Text: Thomas O. Chisholm | Music: William M. Runyan

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: How blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD, who made heaven and earth,
who remains faithful forever.

*Great is our God, and abundant in power.
His understanding has no limit.*

The LORD builds up His people:

He gathers in the outcasts and wanderers;
*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds;
He feeds the hungry, frees the prisoners,
and gives sight to the blind.*

He lifts up the humble and the afflicted.

All creation declares the goodness of our God:
*He covers the heavens with clouds,
and supplies the earth with rain;
He provides for His creatures, great and small.*

Leader: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
in those who wait and hope in His lovingkindness.

– from Psalms 146:5-6 and 147:1-11

member, too, that the Corinthian church had to go through a difficult process of soul-searching after Paul had rebuked them for their attitudes toward sin; and this passage in 2 Corinthians 8 comes in the context of Paul's exhortations, chapters 4-7, on repentance, a proper and timely mindset, our identity as new creations in Christ, and our "treasures in jars of clay" because we share in the sufferings of Christ.)

In the Samuel and Mark passages, we see examples of gracious generosity—in the life of David, as he laments the deaths of Saul and Jonathan; and in Christ, who ceaselessly ministered, healed, and taught, with no thought to His own fatigue. Finally, in the poetic readings we see God's grace and generosity in His unending faithfulness and in His redeeming, restorative, and abiding presence.

The first two songs declare the grace and goodness of God, who is constantly and forever faithful in His steadfast love. In response, our hearts well up and pour out worship and praise for His blessings.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.

Let us lift our hearts and our hands to God in heaven.

– Lamentations 3:40-41

[Silence]

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

Out of the depths I have cried to You.

LORD, hear my voice.

Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you kept a record of sins, O LORD,
who could stand?

**But with You there is forgiveness;
so that we can, with reverence, serve You.**

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in His word I put my hope.

– Psalm 130:1-5

[Silence]

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (verse 2)

The Lord is my song,
The Lord is my praise;
All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song,
The Lord is my praise;
God, the well-spring of life.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;

His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.

Great is Your faithfulness!

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul;

“therefore I will hope in Him.”

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,
to the soul who seeks Him.

It is good to hope in the salvation of the LORD.

– from Lamentations 3:22-26

**Our hope is in the LORD,
for with the Him is steadfast love,
and with Him is abundant redemption.
The LORD redeems His people from all their sins.**

– from Psalm 130:7-8

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Lord, teach me to be generous:
to serve You as You deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to seek reward,
except that of knowing that I do Your will.*

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.

Verse 2

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.

Verse 3

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.

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THE WORD

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
Lamentations 3:22-33
Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

The author of this prayer for generosity is unknown. It has been attributed to Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), or alternatively to one of his followers or later biographers.

For slight variations on the prayer, or for more information and commentary, see the article in Thinking Faith (https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20120217_1.htm); accessed 24 June 2021. Or see the text here (<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/p-10-generosity.html>).

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!

Chris Alford and Ellen Koehler.
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How Beautiful

How beautiful the hands that served
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth;
How beautiful the feet that walked
The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.

Chorus:
How beautiful, how beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

Verse 2
How beautiful the heart that bled,
That took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes
That chose to forgive and never despise.

Bridge
And as He laid down His life
We offer this sacrifice:
That we will live just as He died,
Willing to pay the price, willing to pay the price.

Verse 3
How beautiful the radiant Bride
Who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes.
How beautiful when humble hearts give
The fruit of pure lives so that others may live.

Verse 4
How beautiful the feet that bring
The sound of good news and the love of the King;
How beautiful the hands that serve
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.

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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

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Hymn tune: OLD 100TH (attributed to Louis Bourgeois), 1551.
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674.

Benediction:

Now, beloved, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
may Almighty God, who is the ultimate, graciously generous giver
of every good and perfect gift, so fill us with His peace, hope and love,
that our whole lives – our tasks, our joys, our ministries,
and even our sorrows – will be a living sacrifice to Him
and evidence of the gracious generosity He is working in us;
to the praise and glory of the Lord Jesus,
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“We should feel bound to Christ, even above the kingdom, because of His generosity. For servants, when calling their masters for a meal, consider themselves receivers and not givers. But in this case, the contrary is true. It wasn't the servant that called the Lord, but the Lord that first called the servant to His own table. And, still, you don't offer Him a place at the table? He brought you under His own roof first, and you don't take Him in afterwards? He clothed you when you were naked, but even after this, you don't receive Him as a stranger? He first gave you a drink out of His own cup, so won't you give Him so much as cold water? He has made you drink of the Holy Spirit, and do you even soothe His bodily thirst? . . . Don't you consider it a great thing to hold out the cup Christ is to drink from and to put it to His lips? . . . Consider whom you are giving a drink to and tremble. Imagine that you have become a priest of Christ, giving Him with your own hand, not flesh, but bread, and not blood, but a cup of cold water. He clothed you with a robe of salvation. And He clothed you by Himself. At least clothe Him through your service. Christ made you glorious in heaven, so save Him from shivering, nakedness, and shame. . . . Let us be generous to those in need.”

– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
Ezekiel 2:1-5
Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

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