

Liturgy

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 10A)

GATHERING

**Praise awaits You, O God, in Zion;
to You our vows will be fulfilled.**

You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God,
our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth,
and of the farthest seas.

*You formed the mountains by Your power,
having armed Yourself with strength,*

You stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.

*Those living far away fear Your wonders;
where morning dawns and evening fades You call forth songs of joy.*

You care for the land and water it; You enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain, for so You have ordained it.

*You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
You soften it with showers and bless its crops.*

You crown the year with Your bounty,
and Your carts overflow with gladness.

*The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.*

**Praise awaits You, O God, in Zion;
to You our vows will be fulfilled.**

— from Psalm 65:1, 5-13

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.

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.

LECTIONARY for the seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:

*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*

This seventh 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'll see the designation "Proper" followed by a number to designate its place within this long season.

The readings of the lectionary this week are some of the most familiar passages in Scripture: Genesis 25 contains the narrative of the contentious relationship of Isaac's sons, Esau and Jacob. The poetic passages speak of precious promises and blessings associated with God's powerful word. Romans 8 begins with the amazing declaration that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and goes on to contrast the law of the Spirit of life and the law of sin and death. And in Matthew's gospel we read the parable of the sower, the seed (the word), and the various types of soil on which it falls

INVOCATION

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

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.

Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God, and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; Transl. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873.
Hymn tune: CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842.
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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Together we profess the faith of the church of all ages from the words of the Apostle Paul:

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has set us free from the law of sin and death.

*Sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh
and as an offering for sin,
He condemned sin in the flesh,
so that the requirement of the law
might be fulfilled in us,
who walk not according to the flesh
but according to the Spirit.*

The mind set on the flesh is death,
but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.
*The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God;
it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.*

However, we are not in the realm of the flesh
but in the realm of the Spirit,
because the Spirit of God lives in us and we belong to Christ.

*Christ is in us,
and though the body is dead because of sin,
yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

**But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us,
He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life
to our mortal bodies through His Spirit who lives in us.**

— from Romans 8:1-11

(those who hear the word).

We sing the first 3 verses of our Gathering hymn in a joyous feel and tempo. Here, at Invocation, we sing the fourth verse more slowly and softly, as a contemplative lead-in to Fairest Lord Jesus.

Ellen's setting of Praise to the Lord, the Almighty is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) 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. Here's a link:

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

This Profession of Faith sets the epistle lection for antiphonal congregational reading. The entire congregation reads the first and last sentences. The lines in regular and italicized fonts may be designated so that parts of the congregation are speaking to each other. Typical designations are for opposite sides of the room, or men and women.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

**I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe Your righteous ordinances.**

I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD,
according to Your word.

**Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me Your ordinances.**

– Psalm 119:105-108

[Silence]

Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.

**I incline my heart to perform Your statutes forever,
to the end.**

– Psalm 119:111-112

[Silent confessions]

Open My Eyes That I May See

Open my eyes that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine.

Open my ears that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine.

Open my mouth and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine.

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Text and tune: Clara H. Scott, 1895.

*The words of today's psalm provide
the text of the prayer.*

*This simple and beautiful sung prayer
reflects the parable of the sower. May
this be our prayer: that we may al-
ways be found to be good soil that
bears fruit in Your kingdom.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion;
and to You shall vows be performed.
O you who hear and answer prayer! to You shall all flesh come.
When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, You forgive our transgressions.
How blessed are those You choose
and bring near to live in Your courts!
*We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,
the holiness of Your temple!*
**By awesome deeds You answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
You are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas!**

— from Psalm 65:1-5

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Speak the Word

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;
The eternal, infallible word.
Speak the truth to me; let it set me free.
Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;
The eternal, divine, holy word.
Let it calm my soul, shape and make me whole – Speak the word.

Chorus:

I will hide it in my heart, cherish every part;
Let it heal, renew; cleanse me through and through.
I will make it my delight, living by its light.
My faith, I know, will rise
In these words so rich and wise. Speak the word.

Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;
The eternal, infallible word.
Let its power rise to dispel all lies.
Speak the word, speak the word, speak the word;
The eternal, divine, holy word.
Let it light my path, as each promise stands – Speak the word.

CCLI Song #7057124 ©2016 McKinney Music, Inc. Tommy Walker.
“Song of the Week,” #11 (2016).

THE WORD

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

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!

These strong words of Assurance are taken from one of the psalm readings of this week, and remind us of the attributes of God which we declared at the beginning of the worship service.

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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Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
In the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the Light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering,
Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hellbound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law, in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
See the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory;
Grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
Slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him.
Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance;
How unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
As we will be when He comes.

What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

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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.

Link:

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

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

Link:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip

Depending on the teaching focus in your worship service, alternative song choices to consider:

Ancient Words (CCLI Song #2986399

©2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music;

Lynn DeShazo);

Or the traditional hymn Wonderful

Words of Life (Lyrics and tune:

Philip P. Bliss, 1874).

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

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.

Let the Amen sound from His people again;
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:

And now, O God, as You send us forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, remind us continually that You have freed us from the bondage of our sin, and that by the abundance of Your grace we may walk at liberty, free of condemnation because we now are in Christ Jesus, embracing the free gift of eternal life in Him.

Amen! Alleluia!

Now to Him who reigns far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come, King of kings and Lord of lords, be glory and honor, dominion and praise forever and ever.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“One who delights in the world, who is enticed by flattering and deceiving earthly pleasures wants to remain in the world a long time. . . . Since the world hates Christians, why do you love that which hates you? And why don't you follow Christ instead, who both redeemed you and loves you? John, in his epistle, cries and urges us not to follow fleshly desires and love the world. ‘Love not the world,’ he says, ‘neither the things which are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world is the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, which is not of the Father, but of the lust of the world. And the world shall pass away, and the lust thereof; but he who doeth the will of God abideth forever, even as God abideth forever.’ Instead, beloved, let us be prepared for the will of God with a sound mind, a firm faith, and strong virtue. Laying aside the fear of death, let us think on the eternal life to come. Through this knowledge, let us demonstrate that we are what we believe. . . . Then we won't delay or resist the Lord on the day He calls us to Himself.”

– Cyprian

Lectionary readings for next week: Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;
Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17;
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*We reprise the fourth verse of our
Gathering hymn 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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