

Liturgy

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 11A)

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.

CCLI Song #798108 ©1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music;
Words and Music by Gary Sadler and Jamie Harvill

Who is like You, O LORD –

majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?

The LORD is my strength and song;

He has become my salvation.

Who is like You, O LORD –

majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?

Your faithfulness surrounds You, O God;

Your steadfast love is established forever!

You are our Rock and our salvation.

There is none like You, O LORD,
nor are there any works like Yours.

**All the nations You have made shall come
and bow down before You, O LORD,
and shall glorify Your name.**

For You are great and do wondrous things.
You alone are God.

**O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.**

We will give thanks to You, O LORD, with our whole heart;
and tell of all Your wonderful deeds.

Who is like You, O LORD –

majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?

This is my God, and I will praise Him;

this is our God; we will exalt Him!

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 30, 86, 104, and Exodus 15

LECTIONARY for the eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A:

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

This week brings us to the eighth Sunday of this long season after Pentecost during which 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 the Holy Spirit. In this eighth week of "ordinary" (proper) time, the lectionary directs our attention to the attributes, characteristics, work, and powerful actions of God the Creator—looking back to before the beginning of time and on into the future, ages unto ages, when all of creation will be redeemed and reconciled back to God through the Person and Work of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

This week's readings include two passages that in particular focus on these aspects of the Creator and His creation. Matthew 13 contains the wonderful, and challenging, set of parables Jesus told around the image of the sower and the seed. In these verses, we see that the enemy has sown weeds ("tares") in the field, which Jesus explains is the world. But as He continues the explanation, we see with hopeful joy that God's plan triumphs victoriously—a truth we also find in the complementary epistle text. The Romans 8 passage highlights the important understanding of Christ's atoning work on the cross—not only as perfect and holy sacrifice; not only as the One who satisfied the demands of justice and the debt we could not pay by taking on Himself the judgment we owed because of our sin; and certainly not only as a moral example for us to follow. He also is Christus Victor, the One who defeated death, dethroned the enemy, overthrew all the powers and principalities of evil and darkness in His death and resurrection. And because of this victory, all of

Creation Sings the Father's Song

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day,
Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow;
His breath upon this spinning globe;
He charts the eagle's flight,
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing: "Hallelujah!"
Fill the earth with songs of worship,
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon His face;
The ageless One in time's embrace,
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally.

Creation longs for His return,
When Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky,
All heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme:
The glory of our God and King!

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Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

INVOCATION

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

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend, to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. Words, Christian H. Bateman (*Sacred Melodies for Children*,
Edinburgh, Scotland, 1843). Hymn tune: MADRID (EVANS), traditional Spanish melody.

"creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Rom. 8:21)

The Gathering antiphonal reading weaves together passages from Psalms, including today's Psalm 86, that reveal and praise God as Creator of all things, in heaven and earth, things seen and things unseen.

Most other Scripture texts woven throughout the liturgy are drawn from the lectionary, with the exception of the Profession of Faith, which reflects the Christus Victor theme we find in Romans 8 and Ephesians 1.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

This is the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe:

*He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and blameless before Him.*

In love He predestined us to adoption as His children,
in accordance with His pleasure and His will;

*In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our sins,
according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us.*

He has made known to us the mystery of His will,
that in the fullness of the times,
He might gather together in one all things in Christ,
things in the heavens and things on the earth.

*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined according to His purpose,
who works all things after the counsel of His will,
to the end that we should be to the praise of His glory.*

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ.
To Him be glory forever!**

– from Romans 11:33, 36 and Ephesians 1:3-14, 18

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You discern my thoughts from afar.

*You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, You know it completely.

You hem me in – behind and before;

You have laid Your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

– Psalm 139:1-6

[Silence]

We pray together:

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.

– Psalm 139:23-24

[Silent confessions]

Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth.

Give me an undivided heart to fear Your name.

– Psalm 86:11

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. (repeat)

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord:

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
He who raised Christ from the dead
will also give life to your mortal bodies
through His Spirit who dwells in you.

*If we live according to the flesh, we will die;
but if by the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the body,
we will live.*

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
*We did not receive a spirit of slavery that we should fall back into fear.
But we received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry,
“Abba, Father.”*

**The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs –
heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.**

– from Romans 8:11-17

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:
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.

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Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood.

THE WORD

Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24
Isaiah 44:6-8	Psalms 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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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Jesus Is Lord

“Jesus is Lord,” the cry that echoes through creation;
Resplendent pow’r, eternal Word, our Rock.
The Son of God, the King, whose glory fills the heavens,
Yet bids us come to taste this living bread.

Jesus is Lord, whose voice sustains the stars and planets;
Yet, in His wisdom, laid aside His crown.
Jesus, the man who washed our feet, who bore our suffering,
Became a curse to bring salvation’s plan.

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>

Jesus is Lord, the tomb is gloriously empty!
Not even death could crush this King of love!
The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we're forgiven,
And we can run into the arms of God.

"Jesus is Lord," a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,
As He returns, and ev'ry knee bows low.
Then ev'ry eye and ev'ry heart will see His glory;
The Judge of all will take His children home.

CCLI Song #3992447 ©2003 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Come, Christians, Join to Sing (reprise)

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!"

Benediction:

And now, O God, as You send us forth
into the world to love and serve the Lord,
remind us continually that Christus Victor reigns!
He has triumphed over death,
disarmed the powers and principalities,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
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.

Amen!

Now to the 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 –

"Live in a way that won't blaspheme the name of God. On the one hand, don't care about human reputation. On the other hand, don't give reason for others to speak poorly of you. But be moderate on both issues. As Scripture says, 'Among whom ye shine as lights in the world.' For Christ left us here to be lights. We are here to teach others and be like leaven in dough. We should go about as angels among people, as adults among children, as spiritual people among those who are natural. In this way they can profit as we become seeds bearing copious fruit. There is no need to speak if we shine through our lives. There is no need for teachers if we only demonstrate through our works. There would be no unbelievers if we were the Christians we should be. Everyone would convert to godliness if we generally kept the commandments of Christ, suffered through insults, allowed others to take advantage of us, blessed when we were cursed and did good when treated poorly. For example, Paul was only one man, yet how many followed him? If we were all like him, how many worlds could we have following us?"

– Chrysostom

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