

Liturgy

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 12A)

GATHERING

Come and Let Us Sing

Come and let us sing, come and let us sing,
Come and let us sing to the King of Kings.
(repeat)

Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
Enter His courts with praise.

He's worthy to be praised;
Exalt His holy name.
Glory and honor,
Majesty and power.

Come and let us shout, come and let us shout,
Come and let us shout to the Lord, our God. . . .

Jonathan Butler. ©2005 Universal Music/Brentwood Benson Songs.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.
*Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wonders.*
Glory in His holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
*Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His face continually.*
**One thing I have asked of the LORD, that I shall seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple.**
In Your temple, O God, we meditate on Your steadfast love.
You remember Your covenant forever,
the word You commanded to a thousand generations.
*Your praise, like Your name, reaches to the ends of the earth;
You are righteous in all Your ways.*
**How blessed are those You choose
and bring near to dwell in Your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,
Your holy temple.**
By awesome deeds You answer us in righteousness,
O God of our salvation, the hope of all the earth!

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 105, 27, 48, 65

*LECTIONARY for the ninth Sunday
after Pentecost, Year A:*

*Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

On this ninth Sunday after the Day of Pentecost, we are in the midst of the longest liturgical season of the year (which this year contains twenty-six Sundays, ending late in November when we celebrate the reign of Christ the King). In this season, commonly known as “ordinary” (Proper) time, the Church observes an extended period 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.

Today’s readings invite us to consider and ponder things of great value, not only things (both tangible and intangible) and relationships precious to us, but also things and relationships that are precious to our all-loving and all-powerful God. In the words of the psalms we see His hand of blessing, proceeding from His covenant love and faithfulness. The Genesis passage recounts Jacob’s love for Rachel. 1 Kings reveals the great value Solomon placed on godly wisdom and discernment. In a final look at the kingdom parables of Matthew 13, we see the power and energy of the kingdom, and also its priceless worth to those who know and cherish it. Finally, the Romans passage reminds us of this treasured promise, that nothing in all of creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gathering antiphonal declaration declares just some of the reasons we so deeply cherish and treasure the Lord, and continually seek His face. It is written for two readers or groups within the congregation.

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)

CCLI Song #7063703 ©2016 D. G. Publishing | Sixsteps Songs | Worship Together Music | Alletrop Music | Getty Publishing. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash, Chris Tomlin.

INVOCATION

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

O ye heights of heav'n, adore* Him;
Angel hosts, His prais*es sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before* Him
And extol our God* and King;
Let no tongue on earth be si*lent;
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore*.

Christ, to Thee with God the Fa*ther,
And, O Holy Ghost*, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiv*ing,
And unwearied prais*es be:
Honor, glory, and domin*ion
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore*. A*men.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2015 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century; transl. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker.
Hymn tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 11th century.

This wonderful song of praise echoes the words of the Gathering reading, "Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face continually," even as it strongly proclaims that He reigns!

Music for this setting of the ancient hymn, Of the Father's Love Begotten, is available in the sheet music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and as a sung response or doxology with melody line, chord chart and scored keyboard or organ part.

For the ease of congregational singing, asterisks indicate syllables that are sung with more than one melodic note.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/fathers-love-begotten>

You may also hear a live recording of Of the Father's Love Begotten in the Audio Media Studio:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/fathers-love-begotten-clip

If you would like to order any of the music associated with this liturgy, please send an email note to:

clerestorynotes@gmail.com.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**This is the hope of the gospel,
which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven,
the mystery which has now been manifested to us, His saints:**

Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

**In Him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.**

*All things have been created through Him and for Him,
and in Him all things hold together.*

He is the head of the body, the church;

**He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that He might come to have first place in everything.**

And God put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

*For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of His cross.*

**This is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might,
which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead,
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
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.**

– from Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 1:19-23

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know what to pray for as we ought,
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

*And He who searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

– Romans 8:26-27

[Silence]

**Come, and restore us, LORD God Almighty;
make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

– Psalm 80:19

[Silent confessions]

Send Out Your Light

Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;
Send them that they may guide us.
Lord, may they bring us into Your courts,
To the heart of Your dwelling places.

Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;
Send them that they may guide us.
Come, and restore us, Lord God of Hosts;
Make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

Words based on Psalms 43:4, 84:1-2, and 80:19.

Words and music: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2014 Ellen Koehler.
All Rights Reserved

*This sung psalm of confession and
longing for the presence of God, Send
Out Your Light, is available in the
Sheet Music Catalog (Liturgical and
Psalm Settings) as a lead sheet,
scored for piano and voice, and ar-
ranged for two and three-part vocal
harmony.*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/send-out-your-light>

*You can hear Send Out Your Light in
the Audio Media Studio. It is also
available for viewing in the Video Li-
brary*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/video-media-video-clips-index>

Your decrees are wonderful;*
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
The unfolding of Your words give light;*
it gives understanding to the simple.
I open my mouth and pant;*
because I long for Your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me;*
as is Your custom toward those who love Your name.

– Psalm 119:129-132

Sung:
Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;
Send them that they may guide us.
Lord, may they bring us into Your courts,
To the heart of Your dwelling places.

Make steady my steps according to Your promise;*
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Redeem me from human oppression,*
that I may keep Your precepts.
Make Your face shine upon Your servant,
and teach me Your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears,*
because people do not keep Your law.

– Psalm 119:133-136

Sung:
Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;
Send them that they may guide us.
Lord, may they bring us into Your courts,
To the heart of Your dwelling places.

Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;
Send them that they may guide us.
Come, and restore us, Lord God of Hosts;
Make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

Words and music: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2014 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of God's pardon:
If God is for us, who can be against us?
Who shall bring a charge against those whom God has chosen?
It is God who justifies us
and puts us in right relation to Himself.
Who is there to condemn us?
It is Christ Jesus who died for us, who was raised from the dead for us,
who is at the right hand of God, and who intercedes for us.
Who shall ever separate us from the love of Christ?
God has promised that nothing in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

– from Romans 8:31-39 [Amp.]

Passing of the Peace

This extended time of confession and renewed commitment weaves in the couplets from Psalm 119 contained in today's lectionary. If you wish to use them, they may be chanted or spoken.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for my fight,
Thou my whole armor, and Thou my true might.
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower.
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance now and always.
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2009 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Ancient Irish hymn text. Hymn tune: SLANE.
Transl. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

THE WORD

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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!

Ellen's setting of Be Thou My Vision is available in the Sheet Music Catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet.

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/be-thou-my-vision>

We sing verses 1-4 here, and bring back in the last verse, "High King of heaven, ... heart of my own heart," at Sending.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever. Amen**

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, Thou light of men;
From the best bliss that earth imparts
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood,
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee Thou art good,
To them that find Thee all in all.

We taste Thee, O Thou living bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
Blest when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away,
Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.

Words: Bernard of Clairveaux; 12th century.
Transl. from Latin by Ray Palmer, 1858.
Hymn tune: HESPERUS, Henry Baker, 1854.

This wonderful hymn, the third verse of which is so evocative and appropriate for Table, has been set to many hymn tunes. Hesperus is the most common tune used for this text, but there are several others. Experiment, and see which you like best. There are also some beautiful choral settings. One of our favorites is composed by Claude L. Bass (©1960 Broadman Press).

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Be Thou My Vision (reprise)

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2009 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Ancient Irish hymn text. Hymn tune: SLANE.
Transl. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

Benediction:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ
is the light of the world and our steadfast hope:
Grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table,
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory.

Amen.

And as we go forth, in faith and joy, to love and serve the Lord,
may He grant that what has been said with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and that what we believe in our hearts
we may practice in our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever.

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“To search the Scriptures is an excellent and profitable work for souls. Just as a tree is planted by streams of waters, the soul watered by divine Scripture is enriched and gives fruit (that is, righteous belief) in its season. It is adorned with evergreen branches—actions pleasing to God. Through the Holy Scriptures, we are trained to think rightly and to act in a manner pleasing to God. For in these words we are encouraged toward every virtue and dissuaded from every evil. . . . All who ask receive, those who seek find, and to those who knock it shall be opened. Therefore, let us knock at the beautiful garden of Scripture. It is fragrant, sweet, and blooming with various sounds of spiritual and divinely inspired birds. They sing all around our ears, capture our hearts, comfort the mourners, pacify the angry and fill us with everlasting joy. Scripture sets our mind on the gold, gleaming, brilliant back of the divine dove. Its bright wings rise to the Only-begotten Son who is the Heir of the spiritual vineyard's Farmer. The divine dove brings us through Him to the Father of Lights.”

– John of Damascus

Lectionary readings for next week: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;
Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Copyright ©2020, 2023, 2026 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

URL: <https://www.clerestorynotes.com>