

Liturgy

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 11, Year B

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 God, Majestic in holiness,
Awesome in praises, working wonders?
**Your faithfulness surrounds You, O God;
Your lovingkindness is established forever!**
All Your works praise you, O LORD,
and Your faithful servants bless you.
**We declare that Your steadfast love is established forever;
Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**
Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the saints!
**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
Your dominion endures throughout all ages.**
Bow down toward His holy temple in worship,
and give thanks to His name
for His unfailing love and faithfulness.
**We will give You thanks with all our hearts,
and sing of Your steadfast love, O LORD, forever,
proclaiming Your faithfulness to all generations!**

— from Psalms 89, 138

*LECTIONARY for the ninth Sunday
after Pentecost, Year B (2021):*

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

This ninth Sunday after Pentecost continues this longest season of the liturgical year, during which the Church observes an extended time of study and reflection on the ways in which we, Christ's body here on earth, walk and live in all aspects of our lives under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. We use the term "ordinary time" (or Proper time) to identify this season not because it is less important or meaningful than other seasons (such as Eastertide or Advent), but to mark the contrast with the more specifically focused seasons, and because we count these weeks in an ordinal way.

Last week, our attention was drawn to our worship of God—the character, content and modes of our worship, both individually and in community, especially in the context of David's exuberant worship-leading before the Ark of the Lord. This week's readings direct our focus to the Church as seen in several facets: who we are, how we grow, what we become, and Who directs this. We are individually members of Christ's body, which is the Church. In community, we have been brought together in peace and unity by the reconciling work of Christ, so that we are citizens with the saints of all the ages and members of the household of God. We are being built corporately into a holy temple in the Lord, upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Himself as the cornerstone, and we are being built together spiritually into "a dwelling place for God" (Eph. 2). As the Church, the embodiment of Christ in the world, we have a mission and responsibilities He has given us to fulfill in the world (Mark 6). We are reminded that God expects those who

Come, People of the Risen King

Come, people of the Risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all, and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach,
To gather children in.

Chorus:

Rejoice, rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice;
O, Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days,
With the certain hope of peace.

Chorus

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through every age,
“Our God is all in all.”

Chorus

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Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

INVOCATION

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

O For A Thousand Tongues

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim;
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Glory to God, and praise and love
Be ever, ever given,
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: Charles Collignon (1725-1785)
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pastor, teach and care for the church do so in the same way, and with the same selfless devotion and energy, that the LORD shepherds His flock (Jeremiah and Psalm 23). And finally, in the Old Testament narrative, we read of David’s great desire to build a house—a temple—for the LORD. God refused him, but graciously promised David that He would establish David’s house forever, and that through David’s son, God would establish the throne of his kingdom and that son would build a house for God’s name (2 Samuel). Near the end of his life, David retold this story and revealed why God had refused his desire (“because you are a man of war and have shed blood,” 1 Chron. 28:3). But in the last two chapters of 1 Chronicles (which are not in the lectionary but are so very relevant), we read of the importance God placed on the preparation and building of the physical, sacred space in which His people worshiped, and of the joyful, exuberant manner in which His people brought the offerings of their time, talent and treasure.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Remember that you were at one time separate from Christ,
aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
and strangers to the covenants of promise,
having no hope and without God in the world.

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

For He Himself is our peace.

**In His flesh He has made the two groups into one,
and has broken down the dividing wall,
that is, the hostility between us:**

**He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances,
so that He might create in Himself one new humanity
in place of the two, thus making peace;
and so that He might reconcile both to God in one body
through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility.**

He came and preached peace to you who were far off,
and peace to those who were near.

For through Him we both have access
in one Spirit to the Father.

**So then, we are no longer strangers and aliens,
but fellow citizens with the saints
and also members of God's household,
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Himself the cornerstone.**

*In Him the whole structure is fitted and joined together
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

**In Him we also are being built together into a dwelling place
of God in the Spirit.**

– based on Ephesians 2:11-22

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Lord, You have called us to be Your own – fellow citizens with the saints,
members of Your household, and together Your dwelling place in the Spirit.
We were bought with a price, the price of Your life and blood.
We love You, and we want to live for You.

[Silence]

**Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to You, so guide our minds,
so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly Yours,
utterly dedicated unto You; and then use us, we pray, as You will, and
always to Your glory and the blessing and well-being of Your people;
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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.

CCLI Song #3204324 ©1989 Celebration. Betty Carr Pulkingham

*The antiphonal Profession of Faith is
taken from today's Epistle lection.*

The first part of the prayer of confession and repentance is adapted from a portion of a prayer by John Henry Newman, a 19th-century British Catholic theologian associated with the Oxford Movement. (Phrases from the Ephesians passage are added.) The second, corporately-read part of the prayer is found in the Book of Common Prayer ("A Prayer of Self-Dedication").

This setting of the traditional Agnus Dei wording is chosen because its ending, "Grant us peace," echoes the Epistle text.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of the church, hear the good news of the Gospel:

The word of the Lord:

“I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. ... My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”
– Ezekiel 37: 26-27

In Christ, we who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He himself is our peace. And He has made both Jews and Gentiles into one new humanity, reconciling them in Him.

– from Ephesians 2:13-16

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving, blessing and praise

All To Us

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation,
You are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You, Jesus.
We believe; You're all to us.
(repeat)

Chorus:

Let the glory of Your name
Be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God
Be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ
Be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You're all to us.

Verse 2

Only Son of God, sent from heaven;
Hope and mercy at the cross.
You are everything, You're the promise;
Jesus, You are all to us.

Chorus

Bridge

You're all to us; You're all to us;
You're all to us, You are.

Verse 3

When this passing world is over,
We will see You face to face.
And forever we will worship;
Jesus, You are all to us.
Jesus, You are all to us.

THE WORD

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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!

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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Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us:
And we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you: Eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

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

Here's the link:

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

This beautiful communion hymn is always fitting for the Lord's Table, but today especially as it evokes so well the unity, gratitude, hope and mission that is ours as the Church, the body of Christ.

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin, shed for you:
Drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond,
And to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n around the table of the King.

CCLI Song #5003372; ©2007 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

All To Us (reprise, chorus)

Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You're all to us.

CCLI Song #5869860 ©2010 worshiptogether.com songs.
Chris Tomlin/Jesse Reeves/Matt Maher/Matt Redman.

Benediction:

Beloved, we go forth in joy and with thankful hearts,
to love and serve the Lord –
ever mindful of our faithful commitment to God's mission in the world;
embracing His call to unity and holiness,
and rejoicing that He has brought us into His household,
placing us in the community of His church – past, present, and future –
in all time and in all places.

Amen!

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think,
according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. (Ephesians 3:20-21)
Amen! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“We pray-that words may be given to us, as it is written in the book of Jeremiah, ‘The Lord said to the prophet: “Behold, I have put My words in thy mouth as fire. See, I have set thee this day over the nations, and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, and to build and to plant.”’“ For we need words now that will root out of every wounded soul the disgraces spoken against the truth. . . . We also need thoughts that will pull down all edifices based on false opinions. . . . And we require a wisdom that will throw down all high things that rise against the knowledge of God. Just as we must not stop rooting out and pulling down the hindrances that have just been mentioned, we must, in place of what has been rooted out, plant the plants of God's field. In place of what has been pulled down, we must raise the building of God and the temple of His glory. For that reason, we must also pray to the Lord who gave the gifts named in the book of Jeremiah. Pray that He may grant us words for building up the temple of Christ, for planting the spiritual law, and for teaching others to do the same.”

– Origen

Lectionary for next week: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 ; Psalm 14;
2 Kings 4:42-44 ; Psalm 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

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