



An Agape Liturgy for  
The Season after Pentecost

# Gathering

## Prelude

Mary Miller, Organist

"Adoro Te"

Leon Beollman

## Processional Hymn

#47 On This Day the First of Days

(See bulletin p.13)

## Opening Rite: Liturgy of Light

*All standing, the Officiant greets the people with these words:*

**Officiant:** Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather in person and online, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

*Silence may be kept for a time.*

**Officiant:** Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

(Acts 1:8)

## Prayer for Christ's Light

*Candles may now be lit during the following prayer:*

**Officiant:** O God, we give thanks for the gift of your light – shining on the first day of creation, guiding us through the wilderness, leading us to the land of promise.

**People:** **You sent Jesus, Light of the world, to be our way**

**of truth and life. Help us to follow him each day and rest in him each night until at last we come to live with you in endless light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and with the Holy Spirit we give you honor and glory, now and always. Amen.**

## The Confession

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*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; By what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on us +, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Opening Acclamation

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*Officiant:* + Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Opening Collect

BCP, p.355

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*Officiant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

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#383 Fairest Lord Jesus

(See bulletin p.13)

## Collect of the Day

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BCP, p.229

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray: O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Readings

### The First Reading

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1 Samuel 8:4–20

All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only – you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; and

he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm of Response

## Psalm 138

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- 1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; \*  
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and praise your Name, \*  
because of your love and faithfulness;
- 3 For you have glorified your Name \*  
and your word above all things.
- 4 When I called, you answered me; \*  
you increased my strength within me.
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, \*  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, \*  
that great is the glory of the LORD.

- 7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; \*  
he perceives the haughty from afar.
- 8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; \*  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.
- 9 The LORD will make good his purpose for me; \*  
O LORD, your love endures for ever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands.

## The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

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Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – “I believed, and so I spoke” – we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*The People remain seated for the Hymn and Gospel reading.*

## Gospel Hymn

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LEVAS #188 When Peace Like a River

(See bulletin p.14)

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" – for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

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## Sermon

Joshua Smith

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## Affirmation of Faith

*Officiant:* Let us affirm our faith: Do you believe in God?

***People:* We believe in God the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

*Officiant:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

***People:* We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God.  
He will come again to judge  
the living and the dead.**

*Officiant:* Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

***People:* We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

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*You have been told what is good and what the Lord requires of you.  
Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

*Officiant:* Let us offer our prayers and petitions to Almighty God.

*Reader:* Engage us O God in the renewal of this Diocese towards your Christ-centered vision. Help us to realize that we are bound one to another in our common life and ministry. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Empower us, O God, to energize the ministry of all the baptized, making our communities of faith healthy and holy places of your presence that reach out in compassion and hope in Christ's name. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Unite us, O God, to be compassionate and not competitive, to be consoling and not controlling, to be faithful and not fearful as we continue to build relationships in communities centered on the vision of your reign. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Guide us, O God, to be responsible stewards here on earth, to prophetically witness to your reign. We pray especially for members of the United Nations, for Joseph, our President, for Michael, our Governor, Robert, our Mayor, and other civic leaders, that they may do justice and love mercy. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Deliver us, O God, from mistrust of one another and the misuse of our gifts. Help us to see in our worshiping communities, large and small, growing and struggling your grace and promise. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Heal us, O God, in our communities, our families, and in the hidden places in our hearts. We pray for those in this community who are ill or in any kind of need, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Give us the courage and the grace to be your presence among them. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Comfort us, O God, as we remember all those saints who have gone before us in light and have finished their course in faith. Give to the departed the comfort of your promise and presence, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Support us, O God, as we support each other, particularly in Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop; Deon, our Bishop; Annette, our priest; and all who minister in witness in your Church. Spirit of God;

**People:**           **We are listening.**

*Reader:*           Teach us, O God, as we journey through the Christian life to continually engage each other, young and old, in the spiritual formation, discernment, discipleship and stewardship. Spirit of God;

**People:**           **We are listening.**

*Officiant:*       O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come: You have journeyed with your people Israel and we pray you, journey with us now, in this time of dreaming, daring and doing. Walk beside us on the road that is ahead, calm our fears, awaken our hope, and open our hearts, as together we seek your guidance. Inspire us to discern your will for the Diocese of Missouri. May we put our whole trust in you as we look to Christ, the great shepherd of our souls; who together with the Holy Spirit is alive and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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*Officiant:*       As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**People:**           **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Agape Hymn

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#380 From All that Dwell below the Skies

(See bulletin p.16)

### The Agape Blessing

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*The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of wine.*

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

***People:* You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of our daily bread.*

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

***People:* You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of food.*

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

***People:* You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The wine, bread and food may be consumed after the liturgy.*

## The Conclusion

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*Officiant:* God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

***People:* You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.**

*Officiant:* Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

***People:* Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Peace

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*Officiant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.*

*Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.*

*If you are worshiping with us online, [click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry.*

*The plate offering for the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.*

# Recessional Hymn

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#381 Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness (See bulletin p.16)

## The Sending

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*Officiant:* Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Dear siblings in Christ, let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

Mary Miller, Organist

"Beautiful Savior"

Charles Ore

*A simple meal may now be shared.*

## Servers

*Priest-in-Charge*

*Officiant*

*Preacher*

*Reader*

*Host*

*Organist*

*St. Isidore's Guild*

Rev. Annette Joseph

Chris Masters

Joshua Smith

Sue Balsamo

Donna Richardet

Mary Miller

Joshua Smith

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## On This Day, the First of Days

1 On this day, the first of days, God the Fa - ther's Name we praise,  
 2 On this day the e - ter - nal Son o - ver death his tri - umph won;  
 3 Ma - ker, who didst fa - shion me im - age of thy - self to be,  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, may I be dead and bur - ied here with thee;  
 5 Thou, who dost all gifts im - part, shine, blest Spi - rit, in my heart;

1 who, cre - a - tion's Lord and spring, did the world from dark - ness bring.  
 2 on this day the Spi - rit came with his gifts of liv - ing flame.  
 3 fill me with thy love di - vine, let my ev - ery thought be thine.  
 4 and, by love in - flamed, a - rise un - to thee a sac - ri - fice.  
 5 best of gifts, thy - self be - stow; make me burn thy love to know.

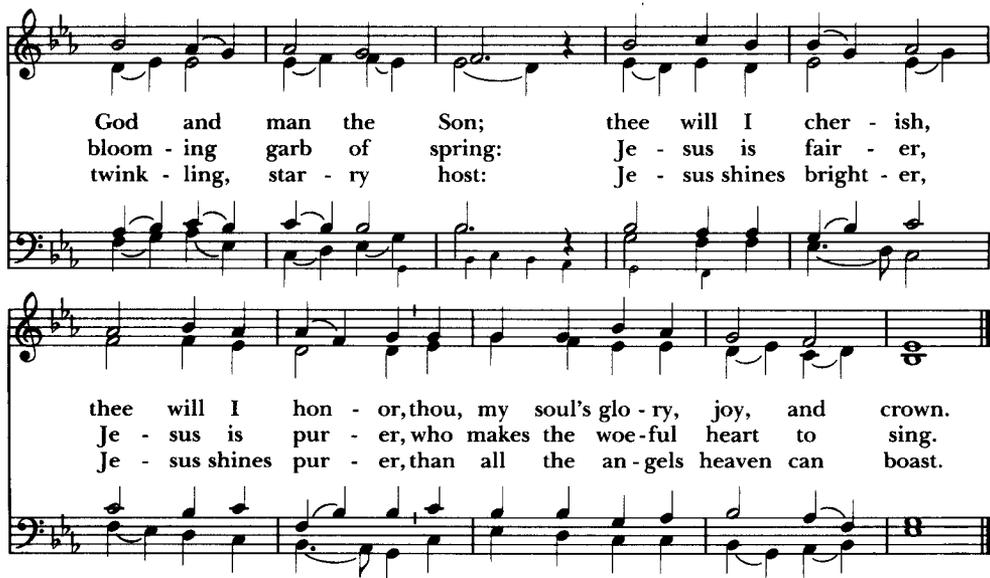
6 God, the blessed Three in One,  
 dwell within my heart alone;  
 thou dost give thyself to me:  
 help me give myself to thee.

Words: Latin; tr. Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.  
 Music: *Gott sei Dank*, melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704;  
 adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

77. 77

## Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of  
 2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the



God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,  
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,  
 twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

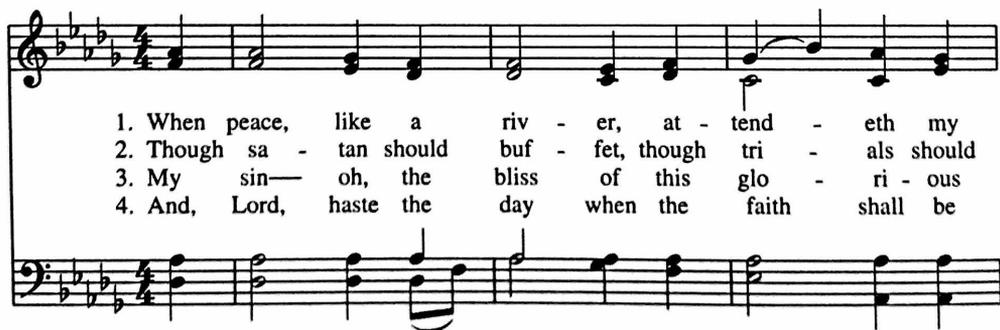
Words: German composite; tr. pub. New York, 1850, alt.

Music: *St. Elizabeth*, melody from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; harm. Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

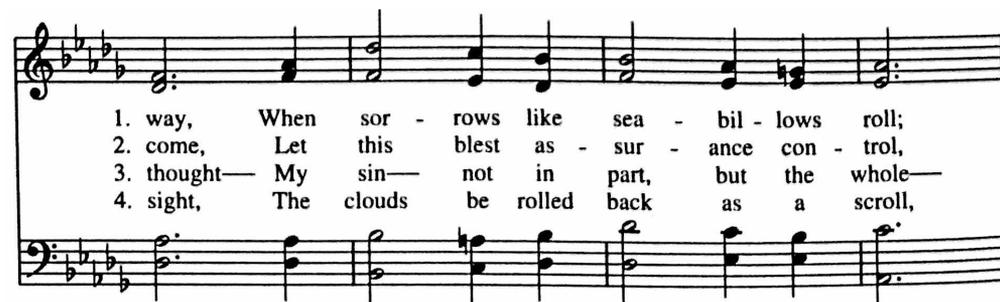
568. 558

## LEVAS 188

## When Peace Like a River



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my  
 2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should  
 3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be



1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;  
 2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,  
 3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—  
 4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to  
 2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -  
 3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no  
 4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 2. taste, And has shed His own blood for my soul.  
 3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 4. scend, "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

It is well ——— It is well with my soul, ——— with my

soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let  
 2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and  
 \*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's  
 truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!  
 shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.;  
 harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

LM

## 381 Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy speak - ing  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as night and  
 3 Thy strong word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with thine own  
 4 God the Fa - ther, Light - Cre - a - tor, to thee laud and

it was done; for cre - a - ted light we thank thee,  
 deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,  
 ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,  
 hon - or be; to thee, Light of Light be - got - ten,

while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al - le<sup>3</sup> - lu - ia, al - le -  
 breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 and our lives our hopes con - fess: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly; Ho - ly Spi - rit, Light - Re -

lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 veal - er, glo - ry, glo - ry be to thee; mor - tals, an - gels,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le<sup>3</sup> - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 now and ev - er praise the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

*The Alleluias in stanzas 1-3 may be sung antiphonally.*

Words: Martin H. Franzman (1907-1976)

Music: *Ton-y-Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

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## Notes on the Service

### Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Sam. 8:4-20 • Psalm 138 • 2 Cor. 4:13 - 5:1 • Mark 3:20-35

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As the green season of after Pentecost begins, readings from the Hebrew Bible start with the choice of Saul to be the first king of Israel. Samuel the prophet is reluctant to abandon the older system of governing tribes by “judges” or warlords, but the elders persuade him that the Israelites must change in response to the threat posed by the advance of Philistines moving in from the Mediterranean coast. To defend them-selves better, Israelites need a tighter union under a permanent king. In today’s first reading, Samuel objects that their adopting kings such as those of the Gentiles would mean rejecting God. But the innovators prevail, and Samuel reluctantly anoints Saul to be the first Israelite king.

Ps 138 is a hymn of thanks for deliverance from enemies, enemies which King Saul will have plenty of, as will Jesus, as to be seen in today’s Gospel.

For the next four Sundays, epistles will be from II Corinthians, which Paul wrote to the church he had founded at Corinth in the 50’s. Only some parts of at least three letters still exist, so we are not always sure of the events or the controversies to which Paul refers in this writing. The sections read today and on June 13 & 20 are Paul’s justifications of his ministry and his exhortations to Corinthians to take heart. “I believed and....” quotes Psalm 116.

The Corinthians would have known an assistant of Paul, Barnabas, whose feast will be June 11. Sections of today’s & next Sunday’s epistle (4:16 - 5:9) can be read also at funerals for its Easter subject, the decay of our outer selves and the renewal of our inner nature by the Risen Christ.

In the first weeks of his public ministry, Jesus has healed and taught and has collected disciples around Galilee. Returning home to Nazareth, he has caused consternation among friends who fear he is deranged, and he has made enemies, who charge that he is possessed. In reply Jesus observes that Satan could not be used to cast out Satan (his “house divided” line would be famously quoted by Lincoln.) Jesus then pronounces that the one sin unforgivable is blasphemy against the Spirit, which seems to mean calling God Satan or calling good evil. Jesus declares that his true family consists not of blood relatives but of fellow-doers of God’s will.

**Rev. Stephen Weissman**  
Saint Louis, Missouri



*We are a community forgiven and loved by God,  
joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.*

[christchurchcape.org](http://christchurchcape.org)