

# Season after Pentecost, Year B, Proper 15

(Sunday between August 14 and August 20 inclusive)

**Color:** Green

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at [Oremus Bible Browser](#)]

[1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14](#) (Solomon assumes the throne; prays for wisdom)

[Psalm 111](#) (The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom)

[Ephesians 5:15-20](#) (Filled with the Spirit, sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs)

[John 6:51-58](#) (Jesus: "I am the living bread: eat, and live forever")

Alternate First Reading and Psalm:

[Proverbs 9:1-6](#) (Wisdom is a host who spreads a feast)

[Psalm 34:9-14](#) (Those who fear the Lord have no want)

**Themes:** Wisdom, Thanksgiving, Prudence, Bread of Life, Communion

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](#), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the scriptures or themes of this service.

<a href="#">All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly</a> (HOLY MANNA).....	Psalm 34, John
<a href="#">Be Thou My Vision</a> (SLANE).....	1 Kings, Proverbs
<a href="#">Come and Feast, for All Are Welcomed</a> (REGENT SQUARE).....	Proverbs, John, Communion
<a href="#">Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom</a> (MADELEINE).....	1 Kings, Proverbs
<a href="#">God of Grace and God of Glory</a> (CWM RHONDDA).....	1 Kings, Psalm 111
<a href="#">Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil</a> (GOODNESS IS STRONGER).....	Psalm 34, Ephesians
<a href="#">In the Singing</a> (BREAD OF PEACE).....	Ephesians, John, Communion
<a href="#">Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts</a> (QUEBEC).....	John
<a href="#">Open My Eyes That I May See</a> (SCOTT).....	1 Kings, Proverbs
<a href="#">Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</a> (LOBE DEN HERREN).....	Psalm 111
<a href="#">Seek Ye First</a> (LAFFERTY).....	1 Kings, Proverbs
<a href="#">Take My Life and Let It Be</a> (HENDON).....	Ephesians
<a href="#">When In Our Music God Is Glorified</a> (ENGELBERG).....	Ephesians
<a href="#">You Satisfy the Hungry Heart</a> (BICENTENNIAL).....	Proverbs, Psalm 34, John, Communion

# ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus** – ME ..... Psalm 111, John Carl Schalk  
© 1995, Concordia Publishing, 98-3202  
SATB/Children’s Choir, Organ, Brass (2+2)

**Be Thou My Vision** – M ..... 1 Kings, Proverbs SLANE/Heather Sorenson, arr.  
© 2012, Hal Leonard, 3502833  
SATB, Piano, opt. Oboe, Violin, Cello

**Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life** – M ..... Proverbs Thomas Keesecker  
© 2022, MorningStar Music, 50-5751  
SATB, Piano

**For the Bread Which You Have Broken** – M .....John, Communion Timothy Shaw  
© 2010, MorningStar Music, 50-9760  
SATB, Keyboard

**For the Music of Creation** – ME ..... Ephesians RUSTINGTON/C.H.H. Parry, arr.  
© 2001, Hope Publishing, C5118  
SATB, opt. Congregation, Keyboard

**In Remembrance** – E .....Communion, John from *Celebrate Life*/Buryl Red  
© 1972, Broadman, 0-7673-1568-5  
SATB, Keyboard

**Jesus, Sun of Life, My Splendor** – ME .....John, Comm. G.F. Handel/Paul Bunjes, arr.  
© 1958, Concordia Publishing, 98-1441  
SATB, Organ, 2 C-Instruments, opt. Continuo

**Jesus the Christ Says** – MD ..... John Urdu Melody/David Schelat, arr.  
© 2006, Oxford University Press, 9780193869705  
SATB, a cappella, Percussion

**Taste and See** – ME ..... Psalm 34, John, Communion James Chipponis  
© 2001, GIA Publications, G-5232  
SATB, Solo, Keyboard, 2 C-Instruments, opt. Guitar

– SMALLER CHOIRS/INTERGENERATIONAL–

**Bread of the World** – ME ..... John Mark Pope  
© 2017, Augsburg Fortress, 9781506425689  
SAB, Piano

**Filled With the Spirit** – E ..... Ephesians Antonio Caldara/Michael Burkhardt, arr.  
© 1997, MorningStar Music, 50-7402  
3-Part (Any), Handbells (2 octaves)

**Give Thanks and Praise** – E ..... Ephesians Lee Dengler  
© 1995, Choristers Guild, CGA 727  
Unison/2-Part, Keyboard, opt. Percussion

**Let All the World in Every Corner Sing** – E ..... Ephesians Jody W. Lindh  
© 1991, Choristers Guild, CGA 573  
Unison/2-Part or SATB, Keyboard, Handbells (4 oct.)

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*LET MY EYES see nothing in the world but Your glory,  
and let my hands touch nothing that is not for Your service.  
Let my tongue taste no bread that does not strengthen me  
to praise Your great mercy. I will hear Your voice  
and I will hear all harmonies You have created,  
singing Your hymns to find joy in giving You glory.*

– THOMAS MERTON, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, 1944

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 111 and 1 Kings 3)

How do we gain Wisdom, Lord?

**Where do we begin?**

Begin with humility;

**We acknowledge that we are not God.**

Begin with respect;

**We acknowledge the power of God.**

Begin with self-esteem;

**We dare to ask for Wisdom.**

For great are the works of the Lord;

**The Lord is gracious and merciful.**

If we walk in the ways of God,

**God will provide us with Wisdom and will fulfill all our needs.**

— Martha D. Kearse\*

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*Wisdom does not make me full. It fills me with hunger.*

— NOAH BENSHEA, *Jacob the Baker*, 1989

## LITANY OF HOSPITALITY—For Two Readers

(based on Proverbs 9)

- R1: Observe the hospitality of Wisdom!  
R2: She is a generous and loving hostess!  
R1: She has made her house ready for us--  
R2: she built a sturdy house,  
R1: she slaughtered the finest of her animals,  
R2: she mixed her wine and set her table.  
R1: Then she calls us when we are acting like idiots:  
R2: She says,  
R1 & 2: *"Hey, you sad little fool, come in out of the rain!"*  
R1: She says,  
R1 & 2: *"Stop being such a buffoon and learn to behave like an adult!  
Sit down—eat something."*  
R2: Do we reject her hospitality?  
R1: Do we turn away from such generosity, such welcome?  
R2: Wisdom invites us into her home  
R1: And asks only that we behave like adults.  
R1 & 2: Shall we go inside?

## PRAYER TO ASK GOD FOR WISDOM

(based on 1 Kings 3; Proverbs 9)

Lord God, we recognize you as Creator, Redeemer, as one for whom the mountains sing and the rivers clap their hands. You have been our God and we have been your people, walking your ways to the best of our ability. As your children, we come to you with our humble request: teach us the Way of Wisdom. Teach us the patience of Wisdom, who never browbeats those who need her most, but stands at her door, waiting for us to choose her first. Teach us the courage of Wisdom, to walk the pathways of Wisdom when all around us choose other pathways. Teach us the serenity of Wisdom, so that our angers and hungers and willfulness do not deter us from following the pathways of Wisdom. Teach us the generosity, the trusting nature of Wisdom that is paired with intelligence and knowledge, so that we build relationships without naïveté and build communities that spring with resilience. Let us hedge our bets, let us fill our coffers, and let us put our weight down on your Wisdom, relying on your Spirit to keep us safe, to nourish us well, and to ensure our protected rest in the days to come. Amen.

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## RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based on Ephesians 5)

Hear our confession, now, O Lord;

**We come to seek forgiveness.**

We have rejected your hospitality, and turned away from your generous welcome;

**For this sin, and others, we ask forgiveness;**

We have chosen the easy path, letting the inertia of old habits guide our ways instead of attending to your Wisdom;

**For this sin, and others, we ask forgiveness;**

We have worshiped you with our mouths but rejected you in our hearts, attending to appearances without demanding honesty from ourselves;

**For this sin, and others, we ask forgiveness;**

We have ignored the work of your Spirit and listened only to the voices that told us what we wanted to hear;

**For this sin, and others, we ask forgiveness.**

We are grateful for your steadfast love;

**We give thanks for your mercy and compassion.**

In this moment, we listen for the voice of Wisdom, and open our hearts to her welcome;

**We give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Wonder is the precondition for all wisdom.*

— CHRISTIAN WIMAN, *My Bright Abyss*, 2013

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## A CHILDREN'S SERMON

(based on 1 Kings 3)

If you could ask God to give you anything, anything at all, what would you ask for? Let me have you raise your hands if these ideas sound like good things that we could ask God to give us:

Would you ask God to keep your family safe?

Would you ask God to help you do well in whatever you were doing—say, at school, or in a game?

Would you ask God for candy? No? Why not?

Our story is about King Solomon, who ruled over Israel at a time when everything was going very well. Solomon believed that God was already doing some of those things we mentioned: God was keeping the people of Israel safe, God was helping them to do well at their work, God was helping them to have good food and nice places to live and good friends around them. So, when Solomon went to ask God for help, he had only one thing to ask God to give him: Solomon asked for Wisdom. King Solomon asked God to help him understand what was right and wrong, to help him as he ruled people so he could rule fairly and give people justice.

Put your hands down on the floor or on one of the pews/chairs—in this room, we have been praying to God for many years. The floors and the walls and the wood in the pews, all of these things around us have had prayers breathed on them and around them for many, many years. And one of those prayers has been the one in which we ask God for Wisdom. We ask God to help us use our minds, to think clearly, but to also see others with compassion, to look beyond ourselves. This room has held our prayers and God is always in this room, just as God is with you in your house, with you when you play, with you in your school, with you after you've gone to sleep. The Wisdom prayer is one we can breathe to God wherever we are, and it is a prayer we share with the world around us. Finding Wisdom around us is something like searching for treasure—there is so much Wisdom out in the world, including in special places, like this room, that we can find. So then, we can go looking for the places that Wisdom shows up in the world—we might find it in a teacher, or a coach; we might find it by falling out of a tree, so that we remember not to do that again; we might find it in a book; we might find it in the quiet of this room, listening for the voice of God.

When we ask God for Wisdom, God says, "Keep walking on the road I have shown you-Wisdom is there, waiting for you."

Let's ask God to help us become ready to find Wisdom when she calls to us.

(PRAYER)

## PRAYER FOR EVIL DAYS

(inspired by John 6)

When the world is just too much--  
When all the wars  
All the anger  
All the oppression and hatred  
All the violence and greed and self-worship  
When it all gets to be too much  
Let us find a different way to live.  
Let us eat a different food, one that fills us  
in all of our empty places;  
Let us drink a different drink, one that  
quenches more than simple thirst;  
Let us sing a different song, one that  
rings in harmony with the song the earth itself is singing,  
one that rhymes with the lyrics of the stars.  
We do not give in to evil days,  
but make melody in our hearts  
and walk the pathways of Wisdom,  
Who welcomes and protects and guides us in your Ways,  
Our Lord and our God. Amen.

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## BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Go from this place, considering the source of your wisdom.  
Hunger for it, like bread. Seek the nourishment that restores.  
And step boldly as you depart, not because you are any wiser  
than when you came, but because you have remembered  
that wisdom journeys with you. And the blessing of God's  
wisdom will be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

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\* Thanks to Rev. Dr. Martha Dixon Kearse for writing this week's liturgy.

Warren Howell, editor