

# Season after Pentecost, Year B, Proper 21

(Sunday between September 25 and October 1 inclusive)

**Color:** Green

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

[Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22](#) (*Esther intercedes to save the lives of her people*)

[Psalm 124](#) (*Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth*)

[James 5:13-20](#) (*The power of prayer and forgiveness*)

[Mark 9:38-50](#) (*Jesus teaches some mean well and some do not*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm:

[Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29](#) (*The Lord's spirit descends upon the elders*)

[Psalm 19:7-14](#) (*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul*)

**Themes:** God's Providence, Social Justice, Healing, Salvation, Discernment

---

## 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="#">Be Still, My Soul</a> ( <i>FINLANDIA</i> ) .....	Esther, Psalm 124
<a href="#">Come Down, O Love Divine</a> ( <i>DOWN AMPNEY</i> ) .....	Numbers, Psalm 19
<a href="#">Give to the Winds Your Fears</a> ( <i>AMEN THEMBA</i> ) .....	Esther
<a href="#">God Is Here!</a> ( <i>ABBOT'S LEIGH; BEECHER</i> ) .....	Numbers, Psalm 19
<a href="#">I Sing a Song of the Saints of God</a> ( <i>GRAND ISLE</i> ) .....	Esther
<a href="#">Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</a> ( <i>LOBE DEN HERREN</i> ) .....	Esther, Psalm 124
<a href="#">A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar</a> ( <i>HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING; MEGERRAN</i> ) .....	Esther
<a href="#">Standing in the Need of Prayer</a> ( <i>STANDING</i> ) .....	James
<a href="#">There's a Spirit in the Air</a> ( <i>LAUDS</i> ) .....	Numbers, Mark
<a href="#">We Cannot Measure How You Heal</a> ( <i>YE BANKS AND BRAES</i> ) .....	Mark
<a href="#">What a Friend We Have In Jesus</a> ( <i>CONVERSE</i> ) .....	James
<a href="#">Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life</a> ( <i>GERMANY</i> ) .....	Mark
<a href="#">Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother</a> ( <i>KINDRED</i> ) .....	Mark
<a href="#">Wonderful Words of Life</a> ( <i>WORDS OF LIFE</i> ) .....	Psalm 19

# ANTHEMS

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

**As Your Spirit in the Desert** – ME ..... Numbers  
Michael Costello  
© 2015, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-5064-0851-4  
SATB, Organ, opt. Oboe

**Bring Forth the Kingdom** – E.....James, Mark  
Marty Haugen  
© 1986, GIA Publications, G-3592  
3-Part (any), Solos, Keyboard, C-Instrument

**Come Down, O Love Divine** – E..... Numbers  
*DOWN AMPNEY*/Philip Dietrich, arr.  
© 1963/1982, Hope Publishing, APM 241  
SATB, Organ

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit** – M..... Numbers, James  
Traditional Spiritual/Rosephanye Powell, arr.  
© 2007, Gentry Publications, JG2380  
SSAA, a cappella

**God, Your Glory Fills the Earth** – E..... Psalm 19, Mark  
David Ashley White  
© 2016, Selah Publishing, 415-927  
Unison/Descant, Organ

**Heart of Grace** – M.....James  
David Aaron Miller  
© 2012, MorningStar Music, 50-8545  
SATB, Keyboard

**His Eye Is On the Sparrow** – MD .... Esther, Psalm 124  
*SPARROW*/Shane Warby, arr.  
© 2016, Walton Music, WW1585  
SATB divisi, a cappella

**Love Is Little** – M .....James  
Shaker Song/Ron Barnett, arr.  
© 2014, MorningStar Music, 50-7505  
SATB, Solo, Cello, Piano

**Many Colors Paint the Rainbow** – M..... Mark  
Roy Hopp  
© 2000, GIA Publications, G-5465  
SATB divisi, Piano

**We Gather Together** – E..... Esther, Psalm 124  
*KREMSER*/John Ness Beck, arr.  
© 1977, Beckenhorst Press, BP 1047  
SATB, opt. Solo, Keyboard

**When In Our Music God Is Glorified** – M  
.....Psalm 124, James  
*ENGELBERG*/John Ferguson, arr.  
© 1995, Hope Publishing Co, DFW217  
SATB, Brass, Organ

– CHILDREN and YOUTH CHOIRS –

**Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord** – E..... Psalm 19  
Carl Schalk  
© 2006, Choristers Guild, CGA1089  
Unison, Piano, Flute

**Stop By, Lord** – M ..... Numbers, James  
Doris Wesley Bettis  
© 2001, GIA Publications, G-5595  
SATB, opt. Solo, Piano

---

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

*I sing a song of the saints of God,  
patient and brave and true,  
who toiled and fought and lived and died  
for the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
and one was a shepherdess on the green:  
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.*

— LESBIA SCOTT, *Episcopal Church Hymnal*, 1929

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based upon Psalm 124)

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—

**Many: we could not withstand the attack of our own insecurities.**

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—

**Many: we would be swallowed alive by the pressure to succeed.**

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—

**Many: we would be swept away by an unrelenting to-do list.**

One: Blessed be the Lord who has held us and sustained us and brought us to this place.

**Many: Let us worship the One who is forever on our side.**

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen.**

— Brittany Stillwell\*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Based upon Mark 9:38-50)

One: Redeeming God, you call us to the work of healing and restoration;

**Many: And yet we get distracted, arguing about who can and cannot act on your behalf.**

**All: Forgive us when we fail to see you at work in the world.**

One: You call us to clear the path for others so they might find you and believe;

**Many: But we create obstacles at every turn, in our desperate attempt to be right.**

**All: Forgive our self-righteousness.**

One: You call us to walk blamelessly, following in your footsteps;

**Many: And yet day after day, we stumble and fall.**

**All: Forgive us, O God, for we so easily lose sight of you.**

+ + +

One: Resurrected Christ, if we were to cut off all that causes us to stumble, there would be nothing left.

**Many: And yet, by your life, death, and resurrection we are made whole.**

**All: Re-member us again today. That we might be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.**

+ + +

*A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words.*

—RACHEL NAOMI REMEN

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(based on Esther 7:1-6 & James 5:13-20)

God who hears our hearts,

We come to you today because we know you care  
about every facet of our lives, and you tell us in your Word,  
that no matter what the circumstance, we should pray,  
*with* and *for* your people.

Hear our cheerful prayers, as we pause to give you thanks.

*[Insert prayers of praise specific to your community or choose from list below.]*

For this time and place to worship you;

God, we give you thanks!

For a community of faith who holds us up when we are struggling;

God, we give you thanks!

For our health care workers who serve with compassion and grace in  
this difficult time;

God, we give you thanks!

For our teachers who form our kids, day in and day out,

God, we give you thanks!

For the leaders in our city and country, who are working to make sure  
all people have a safe and equitable world,

God, we give you thanks!

Christ who intercedes on our behalf,

There are so many among us who are suffering:

Spirits threatened by grief,

Lives destroyed by unjust systems.

Hear our prayers as we intercede on behalf of the sick and the suffering:

*[Insert prayers of praise specific to your community or choose from list below.]*

For those who have lost loved ones;

Lord, have mercy.

For those dying with COVID19;

Christ, have mercy.

For hospitals and health care personnel filled to capacity;

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are struggling to make ends meet;

Christ, have mercy.

For those who are overwhelmed by the demands of caretaking;

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are considered less than and are oppressed purely  
because of the color of their skin;

Christ, have mercy.

For those who are cast out because they don't fit our norms;  
Lord, have mercy.  
For those whose homes are ravaged by war;  
Christ, have mercy.  
For children without proper care;  
Lord, have mercy.  
For those who deal with chronic illness;  
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit who moves in ways deeper than words,  
Soothe our anxious souls and renew our faint hearts,  
that we might be sustained for the journey ahead.  
Grant us the courage, that we might be advocates for all your people.  
Remind us again today, that we are your children  
and we are not alone.

Hear our prayers, today and every day;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

+ + +

*O may my soul, uncrushed by care,  
Direct her gaze to where Thou art,  
And in Thy splendor find, O Christ,  
The strength of life Thou canst impart.*

—SYNESIUS, 375-430, John Brownlie, tr.  
*Hymns of the Greek Church, 1900*

### BENEDICTION (based on Psalm 124)

As we leave for our scattered places, bracing for all that might threaten this week, remind us again that you are on our side. Grant us courage to stand up for the helpless and to love our neighbors with your risky, sacrificial love—rooted in the knowledge that our help is in the Lord, maker of heaven and earth. Amen.

---

\* Thanks to Brittany Stillwell for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor