

Season after Pentecost, Year C, Proper 8

(Sunday between June 26 and July 2 inclusive)

Color: Green

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

[2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14](#) (*Elijah is taken to heaven in a whirlwind; Elisha picks up his mantle*)

[Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20](#) (*You work wonders, O God; you make a path through the waters*)

[Galatians 5:1, 13-25](#) (*Christ has set us free; live by the Spirit, not the desires of the flesh*)

[Luke 9:51-62](#) (*Jesus turns toward Jerusalem and warns those who would follow him*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21](#) (*Elisha leaves his family and his oxen to follow the prophet Elijah*)

[Psalm 16](#) (*Protect me, O God; you show me the path of life and fullness of joy*)

Themes: Call of God, Discipleship, Deliverance, Holy Spirit, Spiritual Gifts

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.

Be Thou My Vision (SLANE).....	Luke
Children of the Heavenly Father (TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA).....	2 Kings, Psalm 77
Come Down, O Love Divine (DOWN AMPNEY).....	2 Kings, Galatians, Luke
Forth In Your Name I Go (CANONBURY; DANIEL).....	Psalm 16
God of Grace and God of Glory (CWM RHONDDA).....	Galatians
I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light (HOUSTON).....	Luke
I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (JESUS LIFTED ME).....	Psalm 77
Jesus Calls Us (GALILEE).....	Luke
Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas) (UBI CARITAS).....	Galatians
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (ST. PETERSBURG).....	Galatians
O For a Heart to Praise My God (AZMON).....	Galatians
O Jesus, I Have Promised (ANGEL'S STORY; NYLAND).....	Galatians, Luke
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (MORECAMBE).....	2 Kings, Galatians
Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons) (KELVINGROVE).....	1 Kings, Luke

ANTHEMS

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

Be Thou a Smooth Way – M Psalms 16 or 77

Ralph M. Johnson, incorporating *REPTON*
© 2000, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5932-5
SATB, Piano

By Gracious Powers – M Psalm 16

Russell Schulz-Widmar, quoting *EIN FESTE BURG*
© 2012, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-5157-3
SAB, Keyboard, Oboe or Violin

Come Down, O Love Divine – E.....2 Kings, Galatians

DOWN AMPNEY/Philip Dietterich, arr.
© 1963/1982, Hope Publishing, APM241
SATB, Organ

Freedom Is Coming – E.....Galatians

Traditional South African/Henry Leck, arr.
© 1984, Walton Music, WW1149
SAB, a cappella

Hold On – M Luke

African-American Spiritual/Victor C. Johnson, arr.
© 2021, Alfred Music, 48913
SATB, Piano

Jesu, Jesu – EGalatians

CHEREPONI/Dorothy Christopherson, arr.
© 1994, Concordia Publishing, 98-3177
SAB, Piano, Percussion

Jesus Calls Us – M..... Luke

Joy Patterson/Daniel Kallman, arr.
© 2005, MorningStar Music, 50-6048
SATB, Solo, Piano, Clarinet

My Great Reward – E Psalm 16

K. Lee Scott
© 1985, Concordia Publishing, 98-2715
2-Part Mixed, Organ

O Jesus, I Have Promised – E Galatians, Luke

John Carter
© 1981, Hinshaw Music, HMC-510
SATB, Keyboard

Ride the Chariot – M 2 Kings

African-American Spiritual/William Henry Smith, arr.
© 1939, Kjos Music, 1015
SATB, a cappella

Take Up Your Cross – ME Luke

DANBY/Thomas Keesecker, arr.
© 2014, MorningStar Music, 50-3062
SATB, Piano

-- Youth and Children --

The Day Is Coming – EGalatians

Mark A. Miller
© 2017, Choristers Guild, CGA 1524
SATB, Solo, Piano

Wade In the Water – E..... 2 Kings, Psalm 77

African-American Spiritual/Max Exner, arr.
© 1991, Choristers Guild, CGA 572
Unison, Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

People encounter God under shady oak trees, on riverbanks, at the tops of mountains, and in long stretches of barren wilderness. God shows up in whirlwinds, starry skies, burning bushes, and perfect strangers. When people want to know more about God, the son of God tells them to pay attention to the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, to women kneading bread and workers lining up for their pay.

—BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR, *An Altar in the World*, 2017

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 77)

Leader: I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old.

People: I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds.

Leader: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

People: You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples.

Leader: With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

People: I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; Your way, O God, is holy.

+ + +

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

Living and generous God, in your presence is a freedom which holds us captive. Gather us in and cast out the fears we've learned to carry but which we must let go of in order to take the keys you hold out to us. Remind us that we belong to one another and to you and in order to accept the inheritance you gift to us, we must also let go of the expectations and judgements we have for others. We pray this in the Spirit of Jesus, in whom we've been set free. Amen.

+ + +

The gaps in belief are filled with ceremonies and processions.

—R.S. THOMAS, from "Bleak Liturgies"
Collected Later Poems, 1993

+ + +

CALL TO CONFESSION

(based upon Luke 9:51-62)

One: When we lead busy lives, we seldom stop to listen.

All: God says: Hear the call. Follow me. Never look back.

One: When confident of the way, we don't need to be led.

All: God says: Hear the call. Follow me. Never look back.

One: When we want the way forward to look like the way back.

All: God says: Hear the call. Follow me. Never look back.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based upon Luke 9:51-62)

Faithful God, the determination and endurance of your love for others requires from us a determination and endurance in our commitment to follow you — even into places and situations that we'd rather not go. We confess we tend to find something easier to do instead. Forgive us and renew our resolve to follow you.

You ask us to let go of worldly security in order to take hold of the tasks of service. We confess too often, we are found clutching in our hands those things which distract us from our promises to you — symbols of status, expensive toys, time-consuming hobbies and pastimes. Forgive us, and open our ears to your calls to serve.

You remind us to keep our eyes ahead, where you are leading us. We confess our reluctance when we feel the press of our past, the unresolved and unfinished things that still have meaning to us. Forgive us, and give us courageous faith to trust in your grace not only in leading us, but in following behind us to finish that which we leave undone.

We pray this in the determined and enduring pattern of Jesus, who followed you. Amen.

+ + +

Obedience requires an act of will which must continually be reiterated.

— DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD, *Markings*

+ + +

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

(based upon Galatians 5:1,13-25)

God of Freedom, set free our ears to hear your Word. Free our hearts to receive your word. And free our agendas to enact your word as we follow your Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION

(based upon Galatians 5:1,13-25)

Be blessed as you leave this place. Blessed with God's freedom, given to each of us. Blessed with the Spirit to guide and direct. And blessed with the presence of Christ Jesus, evidenced by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Amen.

* This week's prayers and liturgies are by Warren Howell, editor.