

Season after Pentecost, Proper 12A

(Sunday between July 24 and July 30 inclusive)

Color: Green

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

[Genesis 29:15-28](#) (*Laban tricks Jacob who marries Leah and Rachel, but God's promise is at work*)

[Psalm 105:1-11, 45b](#) (*Children of Jacob, God's covenant is everlasting; Praise the Lord*)

[Romans 8:26-39](#) (*Paul: God's Spirit is with us; Nothing can separate us from God's love*)

[Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#) (*Parables: Mustard seed, leaven, hidden treasure, priceless pearl, net*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[1 Kings 3:5-12](#) (*Solomon's prayer for wisdom*)

[Psalm 119:129-136](#) (*The unfolding of your words gives light*)

Themes: God's Providence, Family, Covenant, Kingdom of God, Spirit

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 morning's scriptures or themes.

All Creatures of Our God and King (<i>LASST UNS ERFREUEN</i>)	Psalm 105
As Grain on Scattered Hillside s (<i>MERLE'S TUNE</i>)	Matthew
Be Thou My Vision (<i>SLANE</i>)	1 Kings
For the Beauty of the Earth (<i>DIX</i>)	Psalm 105
Give to the Winds Thy Fears (<i>ST. BRIDE; FESTAL SONG</i>)	Romans
God Moves in a Mysterious Way (<i>RAVENSCROFT; LONDON NEW</i>)	Genesis, Romans
I Am Thine, O Lord (<i>I AM THINE</i>)	Romans
Jesus, Priceless Treasure (<i>JESU MEINE FREUDE</i>)	Matthew
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (<i>BRIDEGROOM</i>)	Romans
Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (<i>CHILDREN PRAYING</i>)	Romans
Nothing Can Trouble (<i>NADA TE TURBE</i>)	Romans
O Holy Spirit, Root of Life (<i>PUER NOBIS NASCITUR</i>)	Romans
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go (<i>ST. MARGARET</i>)	Romans
O Word of God Incarnate (<i>MUNICH</i>)	Psalm 119
Sing to God as Sings the Ocean (<i>AURELIA; LANCASHIRE; NYLAND</i>)	Romans

ANTHEMS

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

The choral music suggestions during summer months are all relatively easy and accessible, reflecting a season when most church choirs take weeks off or change their rehearsal schedule. Several of these anthems are adaptable to fit small choirs or ensembles and can be prepared in one rehearsal.

All My Hope On God Is Founded - ERomans

MICHAEL, Herbert Howells/John Rutter, arr.

© 2017, Oxford University Press, 9780193415942

SATB, Organ

Come, Dove of Heaven - ERomans

Mark Miller

© 2019, MorningStar Music, 50-5023

SATB, Piano

Like a River Glorious - MRomans

WYE VALLEY/Don Hart, arr.

© 1992, Hope Publishing, GC 938

SATB, Piano and Organ

Love Everlasting - MRomans

Allen Pote

© 2003, Choristers Guild, CGA 1006

SATB, Piano

Shall Tribulation or Distress - MRomans

Sally Ann Morris

© 2006/2015, GIA Publications, G-8477

2-Part Mixed, Descant, Keyboard

Write Your Blessed Name - MRomans

K. Lee Scott

© 1989, Hope Publications, A-632

SATB, Piano (also available in SAB)

Smaller Choirs and Intergenerational

All Things Work Together for Good - ERomans

John Carter

© 1990, Hope Publishing, PP-117

2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

Children of the Heavenly Father - ERomans

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA/Dan Forrest, arr.

© 2011, Beckenhorst Press, BP1920

2-Part Mixed, Piano, opt. Flute, Handbells, Cello

He Is Mine (Ni Wangu) - ERomans

Swahili Song/Hal H. Hopson, arr.

© 1999, 2003, Hope Publishing, PP-117

SAB (also available in SATB), Piano, opt. Percussion

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song - MRomans

BRIDEGROOM/John Ferguson, arr.

© 2000, GIA Publications, G-4948

2-Part Mixed, Organ

Whatever God Ordains Is Right - ERomans

WAS GOTT TUT/Gary Matheny, arr.

© 1987, GIA Publications, G-2959

SATB, Organ

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*When the yeast is added
we will see in the honey water
the unpredictable, the alive . . .
which we can never own or
truly understand. We will see
how it bubbles and froths—
how it rises up—and we will know
that we do not have control. . . .*

— GUNILLA NORRIS, from "Yeast" in *Becoming Bread*

CALL TO WORSHIP
(based upon Psalm 105:1-3)

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim God's Name.

Creator of beauty, we sing your praise.

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim God's Name.

Lord of all Love, our hearts open to you.

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim God's Name.

O Spirit of Life, come now among us.

Let those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim God's Name!

GATHERING PRAYER

Gracious God, it is your face we seek in our worship this day. It is your kingdom we long to glimpse, your treasure we dig to find, your enlivening Spirit we open our hearts to. May we live in ways that praise you and may our actions match the words we say and sing here in this time. Even as we proclaim your name, through which we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
(after Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52)

Living God, during this year's COVID-19 pandemic, yeast sales have increased 650%. We have become a bread-making people.

Often, prior to these days of physical distancing, our hands bought and wasted bread without a thought. But now, our hands have mixed milk, oil, flour, water and sugar with yeast. We must add the yeast of Your Presence. Like people in other times and contexts, we have remembered how forgetful we have become. By slowing down, by being still, we have known as we are known.

Our kneading of dough reminds us how You created us needing Your sustenance. As our hands shape and reshape dough, we are reminded of the necessity of Your Presence in our efforts. You transform us spiritually as You work within us.

Forgive us for seeking to rise without including Your Spiritual Presence in our lives or in our service. We are too often bland, flat and half baked, not rising to express the substance of Your mission in the world. Guide us to nourish the world through the transforming energy of Your Spirit. Reshape us until we offer the aroma of humility and the taste of Your compassion.

We offer this prayer to You as we renew our commitments to the miraculous work of Your vision for Your creation, revealed in Jesus Christ, Lord of our faith. Amen.

— DENNIS W. FOUST*

*When the yeast is added
to the sweet and the salty,
the skin-temperature,
warm-blooded water, we will sense
the irrepressible and how it moves
into the very cells of our bodies,
into the blood and marrow. We are
flesh and we are vulnerable. . .*

— GUNILLA NORRIS, *Becoming Bread*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, to uncover
precious pearls of Your wisdom as
we read these written words of
scripture. May we be willing to let
go of all else because of the value
of these truths. Amen.

OFFERTORY STATEMENT

God did not withhold the Son, but
gave him up for all of us, that we
might know the full measure of his
love. Therefore, let us live and give
generously, with grateful hearts for
the blessings we have been given.

*When the yeast is added—
the impulsive, the unmanageable,
the free—we know we will be
moved. Every part of the mixture!
The inert lump of dough will come alive,
will expand and yield. We will be lifted
out of ourselves, beyond ourselves.
We will be worked . . .*

— GUNILLA NORRIS, *Becoming Bread*

COMMISSIONING

As you go forth into the world, cast the inclusive net of God's love, drawing into your circles
of God's compassion all kinds of persons. Shalom!

* Thanks to Dennis W. Foust for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell