

# Season after Pentecost, Proper 17A

(Sunday between August 28 and September 3 inclusive)

**Color:** Green

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

[Exodus 3:1-15](#) (God calls Moses from out of the burning bush)

[Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b](#) (Remember the wonderful works God has done)

[Romans 12:9-21](#) (Live loving lives full of virtue and harmony)

[Matthew 16:21-28](#) (If any wish to follow me, they must take up their cross)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Jeremiah 15:15-21](#) (Jeremiah complains to God; God answers with a promise)

[Psalm 26:1-8](#) (A plea for justice from one who is faithful)

**Themes:** Calling, God's Promises, Faithfulness, Compassion, Cross, Discipleship

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://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.

<a href="#">Blest Be the Tie That Binds</a> (DENNIS).....	Romans
<a href="#">Cuando El Pobre [When the Poor Ones]</a> (EL CAMINO).....	Romans
<a href="#">The God of Abraham Praise</a> (LEONI) .....	Exodus
<a href="#">Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil</a> (GOODNESS IS STRONGER).....	Romans
<a href="#">Here I Am, Lord</a> (HERE I AM).....	Exodus, Jeremiah
<a href="#">Holy, Holy, Holy</a> (NICAEA).....	Exodus
<a href="#">I Have Decided to Follow Jesus</a> (ASSAM).....	Matthew
<a href="#">Lift High the Cross</a> (CRUCIFER) .....	Matthew
<a href="#">Live in Charity</a> (UBI CARITAS).....	Romans
<a href="#">Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service</a> (BEACH SPRING; IN BABILONE) .....	Romans, Matthew
<a href="#">Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone</a> (MAITLAND).....	Matthew
<a href="#">Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated</a> (HENDON).....	Matthew
<a href="#">Take Up Thy Cross</a> (BOURBON; GERMANY; QUEBEC).....	Matthew
<a href="#">Will You Come and Follow Me [The Summons]</a> (KELVINGROVE) .....	Matthew

## ANTHEMS

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

**Be Thou My Vision** - E ..... Psalm 26  
*SLANE*/Alice Parker, arr.  
© 1976, Hinshaw Music, HMC-135  
SATB, Keyboard, opt. Strings and Harp

**Beloved, God's Chosen** - E ..... Romans  
Robert Hobby  
© 2003, MorningStar Music, 50-8707  
2-Part Mixed, Organ, Flute

**Come Follow Me Forever** - E ..... Matthew  
Johann Michael Haydn/Patrick Liebergen, arr.  
© 2001, GIA Publications, G-5387  
2-Part (any), Keyboard

**Day By Day** - E ..... Romans, Matthew  
Martin How  
© 1977, RSCM, GIA Publications, G-4178  
Unison, 2 or 3-Part, Organ

**Go Down, Moses** - E ..... Exodus  
Negro Spiritual/David Music, arr.  
© 2002, Selah Publishing, 420-618  
SATB, Baritone, a cappella

**Hold Fast to What Is Good** - E ..... Romans  
John Purifoy  
© 2006, Choristers Guild, CGA1086  
SAB, Piano

**Lift High the Cross** - E ..... Matthew  
*CRUCIFER*/Carl Schalk, arr.  
© 1980, Concordia Publishing, 98-2468  
SATB, Organ, opt. Brass

**Love Is Little** - E ..... Romans  
Shaker Song/Kevin Siegfried, arr.  
© 1999, earthsongs, S-102  
SATB, a cappella

**Embrace My Way and Cross** - E ..... Matthew  
Rob Glover  
© 1997, GIA Publications, G-4594  
Unison, Organ, opt. 2 C-Instruments

**God's Peace (Come Away From Rush and Hurry)** - E  
*BEACH SPRING*/C.J. Adams, arr ..... Romans  
© 2012, Hope Publishing, C 5752  
SAB, Piano

-- Youth and Children --

**Order My Steps** - E ..... Matthew  
Glenn Burleigh/Jack Schrader, arr.  
© 2003, Hope Publishing, C 5247  
SAB, Piano (also available in SATB, TTBB, or SSA)

**Ubi Caritas** - E ..... Romans  
Becki Slagle Mayo  
© 2013, Choristers Guild, CGA1086  
2-Part, Piano, opt. Oboe

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

*Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears;  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.*

*But drops of tears can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe.  
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.*

— ISAAC WATTS, from "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"

*Suffering is the price we pay for existence in this realm, and while suffering in and of itself has no redeeming value, the grace with which we bear our crosses, and the generosity with which we shoulder the burden of the crosses of others, is active prayer and active gratitude for the extraordinary gift of life in this realm.*

— BRIAN DOYLE, *Grace Notes*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Psalm 26)

Praise be to the One who calls us together.

**We come together to worship, to love, to serve, and to grow.**

Let us open ourselves to God's steadfast love;

let us sing with thanksgiving; let us tell of God's wondrous deeds.

**In our worship, O Lord, may your glorious name be praised! Amen.**

— Daniel E. Glaze\*

## GATHERING PRAYER

(inspired by Psalm 26)

Surprising God, you have an uncomfortable habit of showing up where we least expect you:

in a burning bush,

in the face of an enemy,

in a livestock feed trough,

on a rough wooden cross.

Turn our lives upside down with your radical love. Help us fully embrace your surprises, even as we revel in the joy of being fully embraced by your all-encompassing grace and mercy.

We pray in the name of your most amazing surprise of all: your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

— Laura Jaquith Bartlett, *ministrymatters.com*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(after Matthew 16)*

Holy and Eternal God, you have called us to be faithful in following in the way of Christ. We are confounded by his holy paradox of finding life by giving our own lives away. Although we understand this call of Christ, so often we are reticent to follow it. We confess that we hold on to life as if it were our own and we avoid suffering as if it might bring us shame. Strengthen us as we commit ourselves once again to Christ's call of discipleship; loving and serving this world in his name. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**We have confessed our sins before God and one another. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven; let us forgive one another. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, may we give cheerfully of our time, our money, and even give our lives for the sake of your work in this world. We offer this prayer in your name, from Whom all blessings flow. Amen.

## TWO PRAYERS FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

— *Book of Common Worship*, Presbyterian Church (USA)

## COMMISSIONING

As we depart, let us remember to hold fast to what is good and lovely, to rejoice in hope, to pray ceaselessly, to care for the poor, to rejoice with those who are joyful and weep with those who mourn. This is our service to God. Amen.

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\*Thanks to Daniel E. Glaze for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor