

# Season after Pentecost, Proper 21A

(Sunday between September 25 and October 1 inclusive)

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

[Exodus 17:1-7](#) (*God supplies water from a rock*)  
[Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16](#) (*He made streams flow from the rock, made flow like rivers*)  
[Philippians 2:1-13](#) (*The mind of Christ: humble, but exalted by God*)  
[Matthew 21:23-32](#) (*Jesus' authority is questioned and he offers a parable*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32](#) (*The way of the Lord is fair. Turn away from sin*)  
[Psalm 25:1-9](#) (*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul*)

**Themes:** God's Providence, Water, Mind of Christ, Humility, Faithfulness

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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="#">All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</a> (CORONATION; DIADEM; MILES LANE).....	Philippians, Matthew
<a href="#">All Praise to Thee</a> (ENGELBERG; SINE NOMINE) .....	Philippians, Matthew
<a href="#">All the Way My Savior Leads Me</a> (ALL THE WAY).....	Exodus, Psalm 78
<a href="#">All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly</a> (HOLY MANNA).....	Exodus, Ezekiel, Communion
<a href="#">At the Name of Jesus</a> (KING'S WESTON) .....	Philippians, Matthew
<a href="#">Bread of the World</a> (EUCARISTIC HYMN; RENDEZ À DIEU) .....	Ezekiel, Communion
<a href="#">Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</a> (NETTLETON) .....	Exodus, Ezekiel, Psalm 78, Communion
<a href="#">Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</a> (CWM RHONDDA).....	Exodus, Psalm 78, Communion
<a href="#">Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love</a> (CHEREPONI) .....	Philippians
<a href="#">Lord of the Dance</a> (SIMPLE GIFTS).....	Matthew
<a href="#">Send me Jesus / Thuma mina</a> (THUMA MINA).....	Matthew
<a href="#">Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord</a> (CAMACHA) .....	Psalm 25, Matthew
<a href="#">Trust and Obey</a> (TRUST AND OBEY).....	Matthew
<a href="#">What Wondrous Love Is This</a> (WONDROUS LOVE) .....	Philippians, Matthew

# ANTHEMS

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

**Adoro Te (We Sing Your Praise)** - E.....Phil, Com  
Michael Haydn/Richard Proulx, arr.  
© 1994, GIA Publications, G-4058  
SATB, Organ

**Christus Paradox** - ME..... Philippians  
PICARDY/Alfred V. Fedak, arr.  
© 2000, GIA Publications, G-4058  
SATB, Organ

**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing** – E  
Robert Hobby.....Exodus, Ezekiel, Ps 78, Com  
© 2014, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-8579-0  
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard, Flute

**I Lift My Soul (Thy Holy Wings)** - E.....Exodus, Ps 25  
BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR/Michael Burkhardt, arr.  
© 1999, MorningStar Music, 50-5552  
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard, opt. Cello, Clarinet, Oboe

**Lord, Be Thy Word My Rule** - ME..... Psalm 25  
K. Lee Scott  
© 2017, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-5064-2598-6  
SATB, Organ

**Rivers of Living Water** - M.....Exodus, Ps 78, Com  
LACQUIPARLE/Karen Marroli, arr.  
© 2016, MorningStar Music, 50-8740  
SATB, Piano, Flute, Violin, opt. Percussion

**Shepherd of Souls** - E .....Exodus, Communion  
ICH WILL DICH LIEBEN/Scott Attwood, arr.  
© 2017, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-5064-4573-1  
SAB, Piano

**Take and Eat This Bread of Heaven** - E ..... Ps 78, Com  
Thomas Keesecker  
© 2014, MorningStar Music, 80-820  
SATB, Keyboard, opt. Violin, Guitar

**Where Charity and Love Prevail** - E ..... Philippians  
TWENTY-FOURTH/William McNair, arr.  
© 2018, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-5064-5255-5  
SATB, Keyboard

-- Youth and Children --

**Ubi Caritas** - E .....Philippians, Communion  
Victor C. Johnson  
© 2015, Choristers Guild, CGE 63  
SAB, a cappella

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

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

*You cannot build a ship without nails,  
and you can't be saved without humility.*

— AMMA SYNCLITICA OF ALEXANDRIA, 4<sup>th</sup> Century

+ + +

*Regardless of what it is, every morsel of food we put into our  
mouth is a blessing. Saying grace doesn't make it into a  
blessing; it already is one. Holy Communion isn't the only holy  
meal, it is the meal that can remind us that every meal is holy.*

— KATE BRAESTRUP, Beginner's Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP (three readers)  
(Psalm 25)

1: To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

2: Make us to know Your ways.

3: Teach us Your paths.

1: Lead us in Your truth.

**ALL: Teach us, O Lord.**

2: In You, O Lord, we wait and trust.

3: Be mindful of Your mercy

1: and of Your steadfast love.

2: Because of Your goodness,

**ALL: Teach us, O Lord.**

3: With You, O Lord, we journey through the wilderness.

1: Instruct us in Your way.

2: Teach us Your paths.

3: Lead us in what is right.

**ALL: Teach us, O Lord.**

1: All Your paths,

2: all Your ways

3: are steadfast love and faithfulness.

**ALL: Teach us, O Lord, to walk with you.**

— Laura Edgar\*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2:1-13)

God who hears our cries,

We thirst for justice, for peace, for hope. When we see the pain and unrest around and within us, we wonder where you are. Is the Lord among us or not?

Christ who shares our burdens,

We thirst for compassion and solidarity. You call us to care for each other, to walk together, to carry each other's concerns. Let us look not only to our own interests, but to the interests of others.

Spirit who guides our way,

We thirst for strength and courage and renewal. The work of peace and justice is slow work. As we wander through the wilderness, we keep asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

We will remember your mighty deeds and the wonders you have done. We will recall the quiet ways you have walked with us on every journey. Even now, you are at work in us, enabling and empowering us to join the work of your kin-dom of hope.

So may your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32)

Redeeming God, we've turned away from you and from each other. You call us to compassion, yet we harden our hearts.

(Prayers of confession.)

Nurturing God, so much of life is unfair. We want to blame you instead of recognizing the ways we are complicit in fostering systems of oppression. Turn our hearts toward you, that we may live and cultivate life, flourishing for others.

(Prayers for ways we might cultivate love of neighbor and life in our communities.)

Creating God, you call us to life. Sometimes we're not sure how to cast away the ways of death. Create in us new hearts and new spirits.

(Assurance of pardon and commitment to walking in God's ways.)

## RESPONSIVE READING

(Matthew 21:23-32, Philippians 2:1-13)

We believe in unity. Yet we are swayed by selfishness, greed, and pride. We don't live in harmony with each other.

**We believe in unity. May we believe in our hearts and with our actions.**

We believe in compassion. Yet we ignore needs around us, abandon each other, and participate in systems and structures of oppression.

**We believe in compassion. May we believe in our hearts and with our actions.**

We believe in love. Yet we get caught up in the hate around us, the fear that drives us to lash out, and the constant striving for more. The self-giving love of Christ is hard to emulate.

**We believe in love. May we believe in our hearts and with our actions.**

God of unity, compassion, and love, we believe in you.

**May we believe in our hearts and with our actions.**

## BENEDICTION

(Philippians 2:1-13)

May we find consolation in God's steadfast love, encouragement in Christ's amazing grace, and hope in the Spirit's sustaining power. May we be obedient to the call of compassion, for it is God who is at work in and through us. Amen.

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\*Thanks to Laura Edgar for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor