

Season after Pentecost, Proper 11A

(Sunday between July 17 and June 23 inclusive)

Color: Green

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

[Genesis 28:10-19a](#) (*Jacob dreams of a ladder to heaven*)

[Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24](#) (*Lord, you have searched me; If I ascend to heaven you are there*)

[Romans 8:12-25](#) (*Paul: The whole creation groans for redemption with the children of God*)

[Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#) (*The weeds growing among the wheat: a parable of the kingdom*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Isaiah 44:6-8](#) (*Do not fear; there is no other God than the Lord*)

[Psalm 86:11-17](#) (*Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth*)

Themes: Visions, God's Presence, Holy Spirit, Children of God, Growth

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.

Blessed Assurance (<i>ASSURANCE</i>)	Romans
Christ Beside Me (<i>BUNESSAN</i>)	Psalms
Every Time I Feel the Spirit (<i>PENTECOST</i>)	Romans
For the Fruit of All Creation (<i>AR HYD Y NOS</i>)	Romans, Matthew
For the Healing of the Nations (<i>ST. THOMAS; WESTMINSTER ABBEY; CWM RHONDDA</i>)	Romans, Matthew
Gather Us In (<i>GATHER US IN</i>)	Romans, Matthew
God Has Spoken By His Prophets (<i>EBENEZER; HYMN TO JOY</i>)	Isaiah
God Is Here (<i>ABBOT'S LEIGH</i>)	Genesis
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (<i>CWM RHONDDA</i>)	Genesis
Higher Ground (<i>HIGHER GROUND</i>)	Genesis
In Christ There Is No East or West (<i>ST. PETER; MCKEE</i>)	Romans
O God, You Search Me (<i>O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME</i>)	Psalm 139
Teach Me Your Way (<i>CAMACHA</i>)	Psalm 86
There's a Wideness In God's Mercy (<i>WELLESLEY</i>)	Psalm 86, Romans
We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder (<i>JACOB'S LADDER</i>)	Genesis

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.

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry - E.. Psalm 139

WATERLIFE, John Ylvisaker/Sherri Hansen, arr.

© 2015, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-9876-9

SAB, Piano

Lord, You Have Searched Me - M Psalm 139

G. F. Handel/Hal H. Hopson, arr.

© 2013, MorningStar Music, 50-5118

2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

Over My Head - M.....Romans

Traditional Spiritual/John L. Bell, arr.

© 1998, GIA Publications, G-5048

SATB, Solo, a cappella

Psalm 139 - E Psalm 139

Allen Pote

© 1992, Choristers Guild, CGA610

SATB, Piano

There's a Wideness In God's Mercy - E

Calvin Hampton Psalm 86, Romans

© 1977, GIA Publications, G-5638

Unison, Organ, C-Instrument

This Is My Father's World - E Romans, Matthew

Steven Strite, quoting *TERRA BEATA*

© 2014, Hope Publishing, 5880

SATB, Piano, opt. Violin

Smaller Choirs and Intergenerational

As Jacob With Travel - E..... Genesis

English Folk Melody/Hal H. Hopson, arr.

© 2004, MorningStar Music, 50-9210

2-Part Mixed, Piano

Children of the Heavenly Father - E

..... Romans, Matthew

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA/Dan Forrest, arr.

© 2011, Beckenhorst Press, BP1920

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

The Heavens Are Singing - E..... Isaiah

David W. Music

© 2008, GIA Publications, G-6877

2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

Search Me, O God - E Psalm 139

ELLERS/Ken Berg, arr.

© 2011, Choristers Guild, CGA 1245

Unison, Piano

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder - E..... Genesis

Edward Eicker, arr.

© 2011, World Library Publications, No. 8875

SAB, Keyboard, opt. Guitar

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*There's nothing in me, My Lord
that doesn't open to your eyes
you know me when I sit*

*you note when I arise
in the darkest closet of my thought
there is an open window of sunshine for you*

— from Psalm 139, DAVID ROSENBERG, *A Poet's Bible*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are searched and we are known.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: We gather to be reminded that we are immersed.

All: Immersed in God's love.

One: And immersed in God's presence.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: May we seek the light that overcomes darkness.

All: The light that came to lead us in the way everlasting.

One: The light that reminds us of God's steadfast care,
even when we feel surrounded by darkness.

All: We seek this light together. Thanks be to God.

— ALI CHAPPELL DEHAY*

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FOR SURELY YOU ARE IN THIS PLACE

Quoting Genesis 28:16 in alternation with stanza 1
of the hymn [God Himself Is With Us](#), adapted.
The choir sustains (hums) their chord beneath the read portions,
and repeats the final phrase with the congregation.

CHOIR: *God is now here with us:
let us all adore him,
and with awe appear before him.*

ONE: O Lord, awaken our hearts to your presence:
ALL: For surely, you are in this place.

CHOIR: *God is in his temple —
all within keep silence,
humbly bow with deepest reverence.*

ONE: O Lord, silence our distracted minds:
ALL: For surely, you are in this place.

CHOIR: *God alone hearts enthrone,
As our Lord and Savior;
praise God's name forever.*

ALL (Singing): Praise God's name forever.

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*You walk with me
lie down with me
at every move await me*

*at every pause
you know the words
my tongue will print in air*

— from Psalm 139, DAVID ROSENBERG, *A Poet's Bible*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we mess up all the time.
We scramble for control,
Rush to judgment,
And often beg for instant gratification.
Give us the courage to relinquish control.
Remind us that you are the true light --
the light which shines in the darkness.
And the light that the darkness cannot overcome.
When we grasp for the things of this world,
Remind us that there is everlasting joy, life,
and love that abides in You.

Forgive us, O God, and have mercy on us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(1 John 1:5, 7)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*My Lord—your thoughts
high and precious
beyond logic like stars*

...

*I fall asleep and awake
on the beach of your making*

— from Psalm 139, DAVID ROSENBERG, *A Poet's Bible*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

You are our rock and our redeemer, God. We lift up our hands in praise, our voices in song, and our bodies in service. Nudge us with your word and presence to give as we are able, whether through time, funds, or deed.

We offer ourselves, too. Our goodness along with our sin. Side-by-side, because you know us fully, God. Convict us to love our neighbors and to offer others the grace that you have offered us. Amen.

*My Lord—look at me
to see my heart
test me—to find my mind*

*if any bitterness lives here
lead me out
into the selfless open*

— from Psalm 139, DAVID ROSENBERG, *A Poet's Bible*

BENEDICTION

May Christ's love surround you as you go into the world.
May God's mercy remind you that you are forgiven and beloved.
May the Holy Spirit's presence encourage you to hope. Amen.

* Thanks to Ali Chappell DeHay for contributions to this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor