

Hymns & Readings for Sunday 20th September 2020 Third Sunday in the Season of Creation (Trinity 15)

Hymn 40: Angel voices, ever-singing

Angel voices, ever singing round thy throne of light,
angel harps, for ever ringing, rest not day or night;
thousands only live to bless thee,
and confess thee Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest mortal eye can see,
can it be that thou regardest our poor hymnody?

Yea, we know that thou art near us
and wilt hear us constantly.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices for thy praise design;

craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer, all unworthily,
hearts and minds and hands and voices,
in our choicest psalmody.

Honour, glory, might and merit, thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, blessed Trinity!

Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven render thee.

Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.

Reading: Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (NRSV)

¹ If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; ² all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God:

³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.

⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, both the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock.

⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading-bowl.

⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

⁷ The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways. ⁸ The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ⁹ The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ All the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. ¹¹ The Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give you.

¹² The Lord will open for you his rich storehouse, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all your undertakings. You will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. ¹³ The Lord will make you the head, and not the tail; you shall be only at the top, and not at the bottom—if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today, by diligently observing them, ¹⁴ and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I am commanding you today, either to the right or to the left, following other gods to serve them.

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NRSV)

⁶ The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.’

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Hymn 197: For the fruits of his creation

For the fruits of his creation, thanks be to God;
for his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,

in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), copyright © 1970 Stainer & Bell Ltd

Reading: Luke 12:16-30 (NRSV)

¹⁶ Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" ¹⁸ Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰ But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

²² He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'

Hymn 617: Praise and thanksgiving

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer,
for all things living you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Lord bless the labour we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbour we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling we would work with you;
harvesting, milling, for daily bread.

Father, providing food for your children,
your wisdom guiding teaches us share
one with another, so that, rejoicing,
sister and brother may know your care.

Then will your blessing reach every people;
each one confessing your gracious hand.
When you are reigning no one will hunger:
your love sustaining, fruitful the land.

Albert F Bayly (1901-1984) © 1988 Oxford University Press

Hymn 777: To God be the glory

To God be the glory, great things he hath done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life, an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate, that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he hath done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see..

Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny J. Crosby) (1820-1915)