

**A Service of Evening Prayer
Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church
St. Aelred of Rievaulx (transferred)
Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

Opening Sentence

Officiant Light and Peace in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All ***Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.***

Officiant

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God. -Matthew 5:14-16

Officiant

Let us pray.

All

Gracious God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.

Psalm 36:5-10

Antiphon: Those who seek after God shall lack nothing that is good, *
for those who fear God have no want. Alleluia.

5 Your love, O God, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; *
you save both mortals and beasts, O God.

7 How priceless is your love, O God! *
Your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.

10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Antiphon: Those who seek after God shall lack nothing that is good, *
for those who fear God have no want. Alleluia.

First Reading

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians (2:1-4).

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one

mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

John of the Cross

From "Song of the soul that is glad to know God by faith"

How well I know that fountain's rushing flow,
although by night, its deathless spring is hidden.
Even so full well I guess from whence its sources flow,*
though it be night. Its origins (since it has none) none knows:
But that all origin from it arose,*
although by night.*

The eternal source hides in Living Bread,
that we with life eternal may be fed,
though it be night. Here to all creatures it is crying, hark!
That they should drink their fill through the dark,
for it is night. This living fount which is to me so dear,*
within the bread of life I see it clear,
though it be night.*

Second Reading

Reader A reading from the Gospel of John (15:9-17).

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants* any longer, because the servant* does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Shared Reflection

The Magnificat

Antiphon *I have been crucified with Christ; the life I now live is not my life, *
But the life which Christ lives in me. Alleluia.*

*My soul proclaims your greatness, O God;
my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior, **

for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

*From this day all generations will call me blessed; **
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.

*You have mercy on those who fear you **
from generation to generation.

*You, O God, have shown strength with your arm, **
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

*Casting down the mighty from their thrones **
And lifting up the lowly.

*You have filled the hungry with good things **
and sent the rich away empty.

*You have come to the help of your servant Israel, **
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,

*The promise made to our forebears, **
to Abraham, Sara and their children forever.

*Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, **
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

*Antiphon I have been crucified with Christ; the life I now live is not my life, **
But the life which Christ lives in me. Alleluia.

The Prayers

Officiant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

*God in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.*

Suffrages

- V. Show us your mercy, O God;
- R. ***And grant us your salvation.***
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
- R. ***Let your people sing with joy.***
- V. Give peace, O God, in all the world;
- R. ***For only in you can we live in safety.***

- V. O God, keep this nation under your care;
- R. ***And guide us in the way of justice and truth.***
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
- R. ***Your saving health among all nations.***
- V. Let not the needy, O God, be forgotten;
- R. ***Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.***
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
- R. ***And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.***

The Officiant invites additional prayers, silently or aloud.

Collects

Officiant

Pour into our hearts, O God, the Holy Spirit's gift of love, that we, clasping each other's hand, may share the joy of friendship, human and divine, and with your servant Aelred draw many to your community of love; through Jesus Christ the Righteous, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O Christ, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear God, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, O Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O God, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sources

- This evening prayer service is adapted from Vespers in the *Saint Helena Breviary* (Church Publishing, 2006); Evening Prayer in *Enriching Our Worship I* (New York: Church Publishing, 1998); and the *Book of Common Prayer* (Church Publishing, 1979).
- The Psalm translation is from the *Saint Helena Breviary*, pp. 406.
- The readings are appointed for the Feast of St. Aelred of Rievaulx can be found online at
<http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Aelred.htm>