

**A Service of Evening Prayer
Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church
Wednesday of Easter Week
April 7, 2021**

Opening Sentence

Presider

"But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them." *Luke 24: 28-29*

Presider

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.

Light of the World *Phos hilaron*

***Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to the human race.
Now, as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.***

***Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

The Psalm 105:1-8

Antiphon God has been mindful of the covenant, the promise made for a thousand generations. Hallelujah.

- 1 Give thanks and call upon the name of our God;* make known God's deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to the Most High, sing praises,* and speak of all God's marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in God's holy Name;* let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.
- 4 Search for the strength of the Most High;* continually seek God's face.
- 5 Remember the marvels God has done,* the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,* O children of Jacob, God's chosen.
- 7 You are our God;* your judgments prevail in all the world.
- 8 You have always been mindful of your covenant,*

All

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

Antiphon God has been mindful of the covenant, the promise made for a thousand generations. Hallelujah.

First Reading

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (3:1-10).

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Lector: The Word of God.

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

Canticle

1 John 3:1-3

Alleluia, Alleluia.*

See what love has been given to us,

that we should be called children of God;*

for indeed so we are. Alleluia.

The world does not recognize us,*

For the world has not recognized God.

Beloved, we are God's children now;*

what we later will be has yet to be revealed.

What we do know is this:*

when all things come to light, we will be like God,

for we will truly see God as God truly is: Alleluia.*

All who have such hope in God purify themselves,

just as Christ is pure.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Second Reading

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35).

Now on that same day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in

Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Presider Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All ***Thanks be to God.***

Shared Reflection

The Magnificat

Presider The angel said to the woman, Fear nothing: you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth. *
All ***He has been raised from the dead, 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 for ever.*

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

Presider The angel said to the woman, Fear nothing: you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth. *
All ***He has been raised from the dead, 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

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God of peace, you brought back from the dead our Savior Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. Make us, through the power of his risen life at work in us, complete in everything good and well pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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)
- All other readings are as assigned for Wednesday in the First week of Easter:
<https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/Easter/EasWed.html>
- The Collect for Easter is adapted from the *BCP* by Frank Griswold in *Praying Our Days: A Guide and Companion* (Morehouse Publishing, 2009), 14