

A Service of Evening Prayer
Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church
Readings Commemorating Herman of Alaska (1756-1837)
November 15, 2023

Opening Sentence

Officiant

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

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.

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.***

Psalm 126

Antiphon There is no greater love than this: *

To lay down your life for your friends.

- 7 Praise our God from the earth,* you seamounts and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow and fog,* tempestuous winds, doing God's will;
9 Mountains and all hills,* fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Wild beasts and all cattle,* creeping things and winged birds;
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,* princes and all rulers of the world;
12 Young men and maidens,* old and young together
13 Let them praise your Name, O Most High,* for your Name only is exalted, your splendor is over earth and heaven.
14 You have raised up strength for your people and praise for all your loyal servants,* the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Hallelujah.

Antiphon There is no greater love than this: *

To lay down your life for your friends.

First Reading

Lector: A reading from 2 Kings (4:38-41).

When Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a famine in the land. As the company of prophets was sitting before him, he said to his servant, "Put the large pot on, and make some stew for the company of prophets." One of them went out into the field to gather herbs; he found a wild vine and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were. They served some for the men to eat. But while they were eating the stew, they cried out, "O man of God, there is death in the pot!" They could not eat it. He said, "Then bring some flour." He threw it into the pot, and said, "Serve the people and let them eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

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

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

Canticle

Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13

Splendor and honor and royal power*

Are yours by right, O God most high,

for you created everything that is,*

and by your will they were created and have their being;

and yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *

for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

from every family, language, people and nation, *

a royal priesthood to serve our God.

And so, to the One who sits upon the throne*

And to Christ the Lamb,

be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,*

for ever and for evermore. Amen.

Second Reading

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke (9:46-48).

An argument arose among the disciples as to which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest."

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

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

Shared Reflection

The Magnificat

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.*

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 any special prayers from those gathered, to be shared either silently or aloud.

Collects

Officiant

Almighty God, who raised up your servant Herman to be a light in the world, and to preach the Gospel to the people of Alaska: Illuminate our hearts, that we also in our own generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness and into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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 *CSF Office Book* (Community of St. Francis, 1995). The antiphon on the Psalm is from the *Saint Helena Breviary*, p. 239
- The Canticle is from the *Saint Helena Breviary*, p. 221
- The readings and (adapted) collect commemorating St. Herman of Alaska can be found at <https://www.lectionarypage.net/LesserFF/Nov/Herman.html>