

**A Service of Evening Prayer**  
**Wednesday in the Seventh Week of Easter**  
**Commemorating the Life of Jackson Kemper, Bishop and Missionary (1789-1870)**  
May 24, 2023

**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.***

**Psalm 34:15-22**

*Antiphon* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

- 1 O God be merciful to us and bless us,\* show us the light of your countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth,\* your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;\* let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,\*  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;\* let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase,\* God, our own God, give us your blessing.
- 7 God give us your blessing,\* and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.

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

*Antiphon* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## First Reading

*Lector:* A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (3:8–11).

The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

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

*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 Matthew (28:16–20).

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

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

## Shared Reflection

## The Magnificat

*Antiphon*        Make fast with bonds of peace the unity the Spirit gives. \*  
                         There is one Body and one Spirit, 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*        Make fast with bonds of peace the unity the Spirit gives. \*  
                         There is one Body and one Spirit, 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, who sent your son Jesus Christ to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that we, like your servant Jackson Kemper, may proclaim the Gospel in our own day, with courage, vision, and perseverance; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, 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 Savior. **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.**

*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 Breviary* (Community of St. Francis, 1995).
- The antiphon on the Psalm and the Magnificat are from the Saint Helena Breviary (New York: Church Publishing, 2006)
- The readings for the Feast of Jackson Kemper can be found at <https://www.lectionarypage.net/LesserFF/May/Kemper.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.