

A Service of Evening Prayer
Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church
Wednesday in the Fourth Week of Easter
Julian of Norwich (May 8, 1417)
May 11, 2022

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 27:1-9

Antiphon I believe that I shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living. Hallelujah.

1 God is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *

 God is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *

 It was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, *

 yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, *

 yet will I put my trust in God.

5 One thing have I asked of you, O God; one thing I seek; *

 that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life;

6 To behold your fair beauty, O God*

 and to seek you in your temple.

7 For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe in your shelter; *
you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now you lift up my head *
above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in your dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to 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 I believe that I shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living. Hallelujah.

First Reading

Lector A reading from Julian of Norwich.

And so I saw that God rejoices that he is our Father, and God rejoices that he is our Mother, and God rejoices that he is our true spouse, and that our soul is his beloved wife. And Christ rejoices that he is our brother, and Jesus rejoices that he is our savior. These are five great joys, as I understand, in which he wants us to rejoice, praising him, thanking him, loving him, endlessly blessing him, all who will be saved.

During our lifetime here we have in us a marvelous mixture of both well-being and woe. We have in us our risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we have in us the wretchedness and the harm of Adam's falling. Dying, we are constantly protected by Christ, and by the touching of his grace we are raised to true trust in salvation. And we are so afflicted in our feelings by Adam's falling in various ways.... But in our intention we wait for God, and trust faithfully to have mercy and grace; and this is his own working in us, and in his goodness he opens the eye of our understanding, by which we have sight, sometimes more and sometimes less.

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

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

Canticle

1 John 3:1-3

Officiant Faithful shepherds call their sheep by name and lead them out.*

People ***Sheep follow because they know their shepherd's voice, Alleluia.***

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.

Officiant Faithful shepherds call their sheep by name and lead them out.*
People **Sheep follow because they know their shepherd's voice, Alleluia.**

Second Reading

Lector A reading from the Gospel of John (4:21-26).

Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Lector 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 forever.*

*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

Officiant

Triune God, Father, Mother, Parent to us all, who showed your servant Julian revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all. **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.**

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 gospel reading is as assigned in commemoration of the life of Julian of Norwich and can be found, along with the collect commemorating her life, at http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Julian_Norwich.htm
- The reading from Julian of Norwich is from chapter 52 of her *Showings* (New York: Paulist Press, 1978), p. 279.
- The Collect for Easter is adapted from the *BCP* by Frank Griswold in *Praying Our Days: A Guide and Companion* (Morehouse Publishing, 2009), 14