

**A Service of Evening Prayer  
Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church  
Commemoration of Cyprian of Carthage (210 - September 14, 258 C.E.)  
September 11, 2024 (transferred)**

**Opening Sentence**

*Officiant*

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.” *Acts 2:1-2*

*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 117: 10-17**

*Antiphon*      I will lift up the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of my God. Hallelujah.

- 10      How shall I repay you, O God\*  
            for all the good things you have done for me?
- 11      I will lift up the cup of salvation\* and call upon the Name of my God.
- 12      I will fulfill my vows to you, O God\* in the presence of all your people.
- 13      Precious in your sight, O God\* is the death of your servants.
- 14      O God, I am your servant;\*  
            I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15      I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving\* and call upon the Name of my God.
- 16      I will fulfill my vows to you, O God\* in the presence of all your people.
- 17      In the courts of your house,\* in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah.

*Antiphon*      I will lift up the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of my God. Hallelujah.

## First Reading

*Lector:* A reading from Cyprian of Carthage.

“Dearest [siblings], now that we know the manner in which we should approach prayer, having learnt from the divine reading, let us learn the content of our prayer from the Lord our teacher. He says: ‘Pray thus’ (Mt 6.9):

‘Our Father, you who are in the heavens, let your name be held holy, let your Kingdom come, let your will be done in heaven and on earth. Give us this day our daily bread and pardon us our debts just as we pardon our debtors; and do not allow us to be led into temptation, but set us free from the evil one.’

“Before all else, the teacher of peace and master of unity desires that we should not make our prayer individually and alone, as whoever prays by [oneself] prays only for [oneself]. We do not say ‘My father, who are in the heavens,’ nor ‘Give me my bread this day.’ Nor does [one] request that [one’s] debts be pardoned for [oneself] alone, nor ask that [one] alone be not led into temptation and delivered from the evil one. Our prayer is common and collective, and when we pray we pray not for one but for all people, because we are all one people together. The God of peace and master of concord, who taught that we should be united, wanted one to pray in this manner for all, as he himself bore all in one.” (69)

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

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

## Canticle

**Ephesians 4:17; 14-16**

***Let us lead a life worthy of the calling\*  
to which we have been called.***

***Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit\*  
in the bond of peace.***

***There is one body and one Spirit,\*  
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.***

***There is one Word, one faith, one baptism,\*  
one Creator and God of all,  
who is above all, and through all, and in all.***

***Each of us was given grace\*  
according to the measure of Christ’s gift.***

***Let us no longer be children,\*  
tossed about by every wind of doctrine,  
but speaking the truth in love,***

***Let us grow up in every way\*  
into the one who is the head, into Christ.***

## Second Reading

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel of John (10:11–16).

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away-- and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

*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.

***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.

#### **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*

Almighty God, who gave to your servant Cyprian boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 is from the *Saint Helena Breviary*, 239.
- The first reading is from Cyprian of Carthage, "Commentary on the Lord's Prayer /Our Father" in ed/trans. Alistair Stewart-Sykes, *Tertullian, Cyprian, Origen On the Lord's Prayer* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2004), p. 69.
- The Canticle is from the *Saint Helena Breviary*, 239
- The antiphon on the Magnificat is from the *Saint Helena Breviary*, 240
- The scriptural readings and collect appointed for the Commemoration of Cyprian of Carthage can be found online at <https://lectionarypage.net/LesserFF/Sep/Cyprian.html>