



Morning Prayer
Wednesday February 10, 2021
10 am on Zoom
Absalom Jones

*Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.*

[Psalm 85:10-11]

Opening Sentence

It is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. [Isaiah 60:3]

The Confession

God our Father, long-suffering, full of grace and truth, you create us from nothing and give us life. You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside. We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. Restore us for the sake of your Son, and bring us to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Come, Lord, come to us. Enter our darkness with your light, fill our emptiness with your presence, come refresh, restore, renew us. In our sadness, come as joy, In our troubles, come as peace, In our fearfulness, come as hope, In our darkness, come as light, In our frailty, come as strength, In our loneliness come as love, Come, refresh, restore, renew us. (David Adam)

The Invitatory and Psalter

Invitatory Psalm 100 *Jubilate*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; * he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 137:1-6

1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, *when we remembered you, O Zion.
2As for our harps, we hung them up *on the trees in the midst of that land.
3For those who led us away captive asked us for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: *
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”
4How shall we sing the Lord’s song *upon an alien soil?
5If I forget you, O Jerusalem, * let my right hand forget its skill.
6 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, *
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 11:1-5

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod
of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall
be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Canticle: A Song of Wisdom: Wisdom [10:15-19,20b-21]

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors * a holy people and a blameless race.
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, *withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.
To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, * and led them by a marvelous way;
She was their shelter by day * and a blaze of stars by night.
She brought them across the Red Sea, *she led them through mighty waters;
But their enemies she swallowed in the waves *
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.
And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name, *
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;
For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute, *
and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.

The Second Lesson: The Gospel of John [15:12-15]

12 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Prayers of the People

As the people of God, we are called to love one another because love is from God. Let us now express that love by praying for the concerns of all.

God of justice and peace, you stand with those who are poor,

You ask us to be the voice of the voiceless.

We call upon you for those who are suffering the injustice of war and greed,

From the depths of our very being we cry to you.

Compassionate God, we call upon you to comfort those who suffer pain and fear,

May your love surround and heal them.

Creator God, you know what we need, without our words.

Hear our prayer and also hear our silence.

Grant us those things we cannot or dare not voice. We make these prayers through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

-Adapted from the Oxford Women's Liturgy in *The New Women Included*

The Lord's Prayer

Collect of the Day

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear: that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being. We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our lives we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Prayer for our Nation

Spirit of justice, creator Spirit; help us to make and keep this country a home for all its different peoples, and grant to our leaders imagination, courage and wisdom, that there may grow amongst us wellbeing and peace. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Black History Month

- from Kierra Stuvland & Unknown Author

Spirit of Abundance, God of Grace and Hope, we pause now to remember those stories that are all around us, but so often passed over. We remember the legacy of those who came before us – who not only paved the way but carried the bricks on broken backs that then built

that road. We remember the songs, stories, and fiery hope of old men and little girls, granny midwives and marvelous musicians, great orators and leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators – those who are earth-tone brown, black as night, fair like the sands of Egypt. Lord, when it's too hard living, we remember you are the great "I am" and our source of strength and purpose for each new day. Help us to value diversity beyond variety. Grant us a vision for a future that acknowledges our strength together as well as the power, creativity, and ideas that we share. May our hearts not be hardened to the pain around us. Widen our vision so that the history that is shared this month may come to be known as our history too. Amen.

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me

Howard Thurman, Meditations of the Heart

Open unto me, light for my darkness
Open unto me, courage for my fear
Open unto me, hope for my despair
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
Open unto me, strength for my weakness
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion
Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
Open unto me, love for my hates
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

A Prayer in Time of Transition

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined, through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 450, 000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness

and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for an End to Racism

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **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 Lord, 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.**

Blessing

God's blessing be with us, Christ's peace be with us, the Spirit's outpouring be with us, now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. **Amen.**