

**An Order for Evening Prayer: Rite Two  
Celebrating  
The Feast of The Reverend Absalom Jones**



**Beloved Community:  
Commission for Racial Reconciliation of the Diocese of Tennessee  
February 7, 2021 at 4:00 pm**

# An Order for Evening Prayer: Rite Two

## Prelude: *Soon and Very Soon*—Andre Crouch

*Officiant*

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalm 139:10, 11*

## Confession of Sin

*Officiant says to the people:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People:* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant*      O God, make speed to save us.

*People*        O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People:* **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. Alleluia.**

## O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

*Officiant and People:* **O gracious Light, pure brightness of the ever-living Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

**Psalm 126** *(spoken in unison)*

- 1 **When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \***  
then were we like those who dream.
  - 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \***  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
  - 3 **Then they said among the nations, \***  
"The LORD has done great things for them."
  - 4 **The LORD has done great things for us, \***  
and we are glad indeed.
  - 5 **Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \***  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
  - 6 **Those who sowed with tears \***  
will reap with songs of joy.
  - 7 **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \***  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.
- 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.**

**Anthem: *Give Me Jesus***

arr. Don Michael Dicie

*In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus! Give me Jesus!  
You can have all the rest; give me Jesus!*

*Dark midnight was my cry, "Give me Jesus!" Give me Jesus! Give me Jesus!  
You can have all the rest; give me Jesus!*

*Just about the break of day, give me Jesus! Give me Jesus! Give me Jesus!  
You can have all the rest; give me Jesus!*

*And when I want to sing, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus! Give me Jesus!  
You can have all the rest; give me Jesus!*

*Oh, and when I come to die, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus! Give me Jesus!  
You can have all the rest; give me Jesus!*

**THE LESSONS**

**The First Reading**

*Reader*      A Reading from Isaiah 42:5-9

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

*Reader*      Here ends the Reading.

**The Song of Simeon** *Nunc dimittis* Luke 2:29-32

*Officiant and People:*

**Lord, you now have set your servant free \***  
**to go in peace as you have promised;**  
**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \***  
**whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**  
**A Light to enlighten the nations, \***  
**and the glory of your people Israel.**  
**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 Gospel Reading**

*Reader* A Reading from the Gospel of John 15:12-15

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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."

*Reader* Here ends the Reading.

**The Sermon**

**The Right Reverend Phoebe Roaf**

**Anthem: *Witness***

**arr. Jack Halloran**

*Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord.*

*There was a man of the Pharisees, his name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe.*

*The same came to Christ by night, wanted to be taught out of human sight.*

*Nicodemus was a man who desired to know how a man can be born when he is old.*

*Christ told Nicodemus as a friend, "Man you must be born again.*

*(He said) Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise, repent, believe, and be baptized,"*

*Then you'll be a witness for my Lord.*

*You'll be a witness for my Lord. Soul is a witness for my Lord.*

*You read about Samson, from his birth he was the strongest man that ever lived on earth.*

*Way back yonder in ancient times, he killed ten thousand of the Philistines.*

*Then old Samson went a-wand'rin' about. Samson's strength was never found out.*

*'Til his wife sat upon his knee. She said, "Tell me where your strength lies, if you please!"*

*Well, old Samson's wife she talk so fair, Samson said, "Cut off a my hair! (Cut it off!)*

*Shave my head just as clean as your hand, and my strength will come like a natural man,"*

*Samson was a witness for my Lord. Soul is a witness for my Lord.*

*There's another witness for my Lord! My soul is a witness for my Lord!*

## The Apostles' Creed

*Officiant and People:*

**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

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          **And also with you.**

*Officiant*      Let us pray.

*Officiant and People:* **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Suffrage B

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of Absalom Jones and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,  
**We entreat you, O Lord.**

## **The 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 your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **A Collect for Peace**

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer of Social Justice**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for those who Influence Public Opinion**

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Anthem: *Hear My Prayer***

**Moses Hogan**

*O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the mornin' when I rise.*

*It's your servant bound for glory.*

*O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.*

*O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your arms.*

*It's your servant bound for glory.*

*O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.*

*When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home. Just to know I'm bound for glory. And to hear you say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.*

## **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; 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 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.**

## Anthem: *Amazing Grace*

arr. Allen Orton Gibbs

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now I am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*Officiant*      Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*         **Thanks be to God.**

## The Blessing

## Closing Hymn: *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*

James W. Johnson and J. Rosamund Johnson

*Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.*



In honor of this annual event, people can make a donation to support St. Augustine University and Voorhees College, two Historical Black Colleges and Universities.

Donations can be made during the month of February online at The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee <http://edtn.org/> or by check made payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, (earmarked “Absalom Jones”) 3700 Woodmont Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37215

*“In light of The Episcopal Church’s renewed covenant and continuing commitment to the work of racial justice and reconciliation I hope you will join me in supporting the Absalom Jones Fund this year. HBCUs create dynamic and empowering educational environments for college students from diverse backgrounds. Now more than ever these institutions need your support.”*

*-Presiding Bishop Michael Curry*

### ***Service Participants***

#### *Officiant*

The Right Reverend John C. Baurerschmidt  
Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee

#### *Preacher*

The Right Reverend Phoebe A. Roaf  
Bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee

#### *Lectors*

The Reverend Richard C. Britton, Jr  
Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church

Dr. William Gittens

Beloved Community: Commission for Racial Reconciliation, Co-chair

The Reverend Matthew Lewis

Associate for Evangelism and Christian Formation, Christ Church Cathedral

#### *Musicians*

Donna Stokes-Rogers, Minister of Music, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Franklin  
Rick Jackson, Organist, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Franklin  
The Consort Choir of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Franklin



***Beloved Community:***  
***Commission for Racial Reconciliation for the Diocese of Tennessee***

Bill Gittens (Co-Chair), St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
Monna Mayhall (Co-Chair), St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Franklin  
Billy Ballard, Christ Church Cathedral  
Rick Britton, St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
Natasha Deane, St. Bartholomew's  
Sara Eccleston, St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
Harold Nevels, St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
Johniene Thomas, St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
Richard Wineland, Christ Church Cathedral  
Cate Faulkner, St. Ann's Episcopal Church  
Blair Glenn, St. Mary Magdalene - Fayetteville  
Pamela Bradley Smith, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

***A Special Thanks to Christ Church Cathedral for hosting  
and in particular to:***

The Very Reverend Timothy Kimbrough  
Dean and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

Mr. Roger Rhoads  
AV Technician