



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SOULS ARE WELCOME. INTENTIONALLY INCLUSIVE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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EVENING PRAYER: RITE TWO

FEAST OF AELRED OF RIEVAULX

Monastic and Theologian, 1167

January 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting ID: 928 461 1047, Passcode: StMichael

PRESIDER

The Rev. Paul Clark

RESPONDER

Sandy Davis

READER

Richard Hendricks

OPENING SENTENCE

PSALM 141:2

(BCP p. 115)

Presider: Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

(BCP p. 116)

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

Priest: 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

Presider: O God, be not far from us.

Responder: **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

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

O GRACIOUS LIGHT

(EOW p. 23)

Presider and responder

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 our 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 APPOINTED

PSALM 119:1-24

(BCP p. 763)

*Presider and **responder** alternate by whole verse.*

- 1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, *
who walk in the law of the LORD!
- 2 **Happy are they who observe his decrees *
and seek him with all their hearts!**
- 3 Who never do any wrong, *
but always walk in his ways.
- 4 **You laid down your commandments, *
that we should fully keep them.**
- 5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct *
that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 **Then I should not be put to shame, *
when I regard all your commandments.**
- 7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, *
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- 8 **I will keep your statutes; *
do not utterly forsake me.**
- 9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? *
By keeping to your words.
- 10 **With my whole heart I seek you; *
let me not stray from your commandments.**
- 11 I treasure your promise in my heart, *
that I may not sin against you.
- 12 **Blessed are you, O LORD; *
instruct me in your statutes.**
- 13 With my lips will I recite *
all the judgments of your mouth.
- 14 **I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees *
than in all manner of riches.**
- 15 I will meditate on your commandments *
and give attention to your ways.
- 16 **My delight is in your statutes; *
I will not forget your word.**



- 17 Deal bountifully with your servant, *
that I may live and keep your word.
- 18 **Open my eyes, that I may see *
the wonders of your law.**
- 19 I am a stranger here on earth; *
do not hide your commandments from me.
- 20 **My soul is consumed at all times *
with longing for your judgments.**
- 21 You have rebuked the insolent; *
cursed are they who stray from your commandments!
- 22 **Turn from me shame and rebuke, *
for I have kept your decrees.**
- 23 Even though rulers sit and plot against me, *
I will meditate on your statutes.
- 24 **For your decrees are my delight, *
and they are my counselors.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE READINGS

THE FIRST READING

GENESIS 4:1-16

RICHARD HENDRICKS

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS:

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord." Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain



will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Responder: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SONG OF MARY

LUKE 1:46-55

(EOW p. 27)

Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in you, O God 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 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 you made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

JOHN 1:29-42

RICHARD HENDRICKS

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN:

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the



Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Responder: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SONG OF SIMEON

LUKE 2:29-32

(BCP p. 120)

Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.

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.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

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

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

APOSTLES’ CREED

(BCP p. 120)

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

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(BCP p. 121)

Presider: God be with you.

Responder: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.



SUFFRAGES A

(BCP p. 121)

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, 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 Lord, 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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

AELRED OF RIEVAULX (*LFF* p. 39)

Grant to your people, Almighty God, a spirit of mutual affection; that, following the example of your servant Aelred of Rivaulx, we might know the love of Christ in loving one another; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

(BCP p. 124)

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR MISSION

(BCP p. 124)

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presider: Are there any prayers or thanksgivings you wish to offer?
The people may offer their intercessions and thanksgivings.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

(BCP p. 126)

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.**

Presider Let us bless the Lord.
Responder **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING SENTENCE

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

(BCP p. 126)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**



AELRED OF RIEVAULX

Monastic and Theologian, 1167

Aelred was born in 1109, into a family who had long been the treasurers of the shrine of Cuthbert of Lindisfarne at Durham Cathedral. While still a youth, he was sent for education in upper-class life to the court of King David of Scotland, son of Queen Margaret. The king's stepsons, Simon and Waldef, were his models and intimate friends. But after intense disillusionment and inner struggle, Aelred went to Yorkshire, where he became a Cistercian monk at the abbey of Rievaulx in 1133.

Aelred soon became a major figure in English church life. Sent to Rome on diocesan affairs by Archbishop William of York, he returned by way of Clairvaux. Here he made a deep impression on Bernard, who encouraged the young monk to write his first work, *The Mirror of Charity*, on Christian perfection. In 1143, Aelred led the founding of a new Cistercian house at Revesby. Four years later, he was appointed abbot of Rievaulx. By the time of his death in 1167, the abbey had more than 600 monks, including Aelred's biographer and friend, Walter Daniel. During this period, Aelred wrote his best-known work, *Spiritual Friendship*.

Friendship, Aelred teaches, is both a gift from God and a creation of human effort. While love should be universal and freely given to all, friendship is a particular love between individuals, of which the example is Jesus and John the Beloved Disciple. As abbot, Aelred allowed his monks to hold hands and give other expressions of friendship. In the spirit of Anselm of Canterbury and Bernard of Clairvaux, Aelred writes:

"There are four qualities that characterize a friend: Loyalty, right intention, discretion, and patience. Right intention seeks for nothing other than God and natural good. Discretion brings understanding of what is done on a friend's behalf, and ability to know when to correct faults. Patience enables one to be justly rebuked, or to bear adversity on another's behalf. Loyalty guards and protects friendship, in good or bitter times."

Aelred died in the year 1167.

(Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 p. 38)

The people of Saint Michael's welcome all those who seek a deeper understanding of God's love for ALL His children. Our congregation is "intentionally inclusive," welcoming all persons without regard to age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or developmental disability.

This service conforms to Daily Evening Prayer: Rite Two, which begins on page 115 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Scripture readings are appointed by the Daily Office Lectionary and are excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA or the Common English Bible (CEB), copyright 2011. Psalm texts are taken from the BCP. Other liturgical elements may include materials compiled from Episcopal Church publications including *Enriching Our Worship (EOW)*, the 2018 Book of Occasional Services (BOS), and the 2018 Lesser Feasts and Fasts (LFF).