

Evening Prayer
Bernard of Clairvaux
August 19, 2020

GATHERING

L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

L: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

L: Let your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine your church.

THANKSGIVING for LIGHT

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **AMEN**

PSALMODY (read in unison)

Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

O Lord, I call to you, come to me quickly, hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips. Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God; in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

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

Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

WORD

Micah 6:6-8

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

I Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters, not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the

wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Luke 6: 20-23

Then he looked up at his disciples and said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

A Reflection: A Saint's Story

PRAYERS

(Each petition ends with: Let us pray to the Lord):

Response: Lord, have mercy)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord....

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.....

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.....

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord....

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord....

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord....

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord...

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord....

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord...

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

For what else shall God's people pray....

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Lord God, you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses. Grant that we, encouraged by the example of your servant Bernard, may persevere in the course that is set before us and at last, share in your eternal joy with all the saints in light, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done, has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace

enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. AMEN

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

AMEN