

A Service of Morning Prayer for Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680 - Commemoration



WELCOME

GATHERING

Leader: +In the name of God, the Creator, the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

All: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Lord our God,

All: you girded your servant Hilda with the gifts of justice and holy strength, and made her a wise and prudent mother in the household of your Spirit. May we never cease to give thanks to you, our Maker, or be slow to instruct one another in the knowledge and love of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Leader: Wondrous God, you have brought us to this thin place where heaven and earth embrace.
Here we bask in your peace and grace

All: **and open our hearts to your holy Word.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians:

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 122

1 I was glad when they said to me, * **"Let us go to the house of the Lord"**

2 Now our feet are standing * **within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem is built as a city * **that is at unity with itself.**

4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, * **the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

5 For there are the thrones of judgement, * **the thrones of the house of David.**

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: * **May they prosper who love you.**

7 Peace be within your walls * **and quietness within your towers.**

8 For my brethren and companions' sake, * **I pray for your prosperity.**

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9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, * **I will seek to do you good.**

Lord Jesus, give us the peace of the new Jerusalem. Bring all nations into your kingdom to share your gifts, that they may render thanks to you without end and may come to your eternal city, where you live and reign with the Father and the-Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 19:27-29

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.

One: The Gospel of Christ

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Passage about Hilda taken from *For All the Saints* by The Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Reynolds

Hilda was a seventh-century Englishwoman who became the abbess of Whitby and nurtured adjoining households of nuns and monks. The Venerable Bede wrote of her: "All who knew abbess Hilda, the servant of Christ, called her Mother because of her wonderful devotion and grace ...; she never ceased to give thanks to her Maker or to instruct the flock committed to her care."

She was born into the royal family of Northumbria and lived a quiet, devout life in the world until the age of thirty-three, when she decided to take the habit of a nun. Almost at once she was given charge of a small community at Wearmouth, and her guidance proved so effective that she was asked to renew the life of another community nearby. In the year 657 she finally moved to Whitby, a monastery which included a household of monks and a household of nuns. Under her leadership it became the most famous religious community in all England.

The Venerable Bede reported: "Not only was Hilda an outstanding example of holy life to all who were in her monastery, but she also provided an opportunity for salvation and repentance to many who lived far away and who heard the happy story of her industry and virtue." Bede went on to say: "So great was Hilda's prudence that not only ordinary people but also kings and princes sometimes sought and received her advice when they were in difficulties. She compelled those under her direction to devote so much time to the study of the holy Scriptures and so much time to the doing of good works, that there was no trouble in finding many who were fitted ... for the service of the altar."

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So, we give thanks for Hilda of Whitby, who died in the year 680 and used her own gifts of holiness and wisdom to nurture holy gifts in others, that they might serve the people of Christ and make seventh-century England a household of God.

INTERCESSIONS

One: Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we make our prayer to you, saying, Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God the author of peace, send your Spirit, to empower the work of peace and reconciliation, of healing and harmony in our communities and throughout the world. We lift to you those places torn by conflict, that there might be a swift end to violence, recovery for the injured, and a process of listening and rebuilding that is life-giving for all.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Remembering the healing work of Christ, we pray for those entrusted with healing in our world today.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of mercy, as you hear the cries of those in need, may we hear clearly, the voices of the oppressed and in the power of your Spirit, become the hands and feet, the voices and the hearts, of change and liberation.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Jesus held nothing back, but gave of himself completely. Help us to give ourselves to the needs of the world and your mission in it; to give our time and energy, to give of our abundance and treasure, to offer ourselves in prayer, to offer our best, for your glory so that the sacrifice of love may give us a glimpse of your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Creation testifies to your boundless imagination. We praise you for the beauty of the season, and the abundance of the harvest. We repent of those ways in which our living hurts your world.

Help us to reshape our living in ways that honour your gifts of air and water and earth.

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

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One: Knowing your love, we lift before you, silently or aloud, those we know to be suffering at this time.

Silence is kept.

Grant to those we have named and those whose pain is known only to you, the comfort and healing of your Spirit.

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

HYMN