



*A ministry and community of prayer of  
The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont*

**A few notes about our service:**

The Green Mountain Online Abbey is a community of liturgical prayer that uses a range of resources approved by the Anglican communion and our Bishop. Within the liturgy, we offer intercessions on behalf of the community, the church, and the world. At some services, the leader will invite personal intercession, at which time you are welcome to unmute and offer your own biddings. Otherwise, please keep your microphone muted as you pray with the responder.

If you would like to add to our prayer list, please email Vicar adwoa Wilson at [awilson@diovermont.org](mailto:awilson@diovermont.org).

As an Abbey, we also offer formation in Scripture, Anglican tradition, and the spiritual life. With some occasional or seasonal omissions, these offerings occur on Saturday mornings for 30-60 minutes, immediately following 8:00 am prayer.

Welcome!

# MORNING PRAYER

*Thursday, June 18, 2026*  
*Ordinary Time, Proper 6*  
*Bernard Mizeki*  
*Martyr, 1896*

## Opening Sentence

*The Officiant says the following*

Through Jesus let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of lips that acknowledge God's name. *Hebrews 13:15*

## Invitatory Rite

*Officiant* O God, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All* Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Officiant* Our God orders all things well:

*People* Come, let us worship.

*Said in unison* **Jubilate** *Psalm 100*

May all lands be joyful before you, O God, \*  
serve with gladness

and come before your presence with a song.

For we know that you are God; \*

you yourself have made us, and we are yours;

we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

We shall enter your gates with thanksgiving,

go into your courts with praise, \*

give thanks to you and call upon your Name.

For you are good; your mercy is everlasting; \*  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

*Officiant* Our God orders all things well:

*People* Come, let us worship.

### **Psalm Appointed 83**

*Read responsively by whole verse*

1 O God, do not be silent; \*  
do not keep still nor hold your peace, O God;

2 For your enemies are in tumult, \*  
and those who hate you have lifted up their heads.

3 They take secret counsel against your people \*  
and plot against those whom you protect.

4 They have said, “Come, let us wipe them out from among the nations; \*  
let the name of Israel be remembered no more”

5 They have conspired together; \*  
they have made an alliance against you:

6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; \*  
the Moabites and the Hagarenes;

7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; \*  
the Philistines and those who dwell in Tyre.

8 The Assyrians also have joined them \*  
and have come to help the people of Lot.

9 Do to them as you did to Midian, \*  
to Sisera, and to Jabin at the river of Kishon:

10 They were destroyed at Endor; \*  
they became like dung upon the ground.

11 Make their leaders like Oreb and Zeëb, \*  
and all their commanders like Zebah and Zalmunna,

12 Who said, “Let us take for ourselves \*  
the fields of God as our possession.”

13 O my God, make them like whirling dust \*  
and like chaff before the wind,

14 Like fire that burns down a forest, \*  
like the flame that sets mountains ablaze.

15 Drive them with your tempest \*  
and terrify them with your storm;

16 Cover their faces with shame, O God, \*  
that they may seek your Name.

17 Let them be disgraced and terrified for ever; \*  
let them be put to confusion and perish.

18 Let them know that you, whose Name is Holy, \*  
you alone are the Most High over all the earth.

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

## **The Lessons**

### **First Reading**

*Reader* A reading from **Romans 2:12-24**

All who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous in God's sight, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles, who do not possess the law, do instinctively what the law requires, these, though not having the law, are a law to themselves. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience also bears witness; and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them on the day when, according to my gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of your relation to God and know his will and determine what is best because you are instructed in the law, and if you are sure that you are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth, you, then, that teach others, will you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You that forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You that abhor idols, do you rob temples? You that boast in the law, do you dishonour God by breaking the law? For, as it is written, 'The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.'

*Reader* Here ends the reading.

*Read in unison* **Life in the Spirit** *based on Romans 8:2, 14–19*

In Christ the life-giving law of the Spirit:  
has set us free from the law of sin and death.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God:  
it is the Spirit that enables us to cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit confirms that we are God's children:  
and if children then we are heirs.

We are heirs of God, and fellow heirs with Christ:  
if we share his suffering now,  
in order to share his splendor hereafter.

The sufferings we now endure:  
bear no comparison with the splendor  
to be shown to us.

The created universe itself waits with eager longing:  
for the children of God to be revealed.

## **The Gospel**

*Reader* A reading from the **Gospel of Matthew 18:10-20**

‘Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

*Reader* Here ends the reading.

*A full minute of silence is observed so that we may reflect on the teachings and ministry of Jesus.*

## **Apostles Creed**

*Officiant* Let us declare our faith in the resurrection and reign of Christ:

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* God be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Together*

### **An alternative Lord's Prayer**

Our loving God in heaven,

holy is your Name,  
may your reign come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

For all creation, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### **Suffrages**

V. Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance;  
R. govern and uphold us now and always.  
V. Day by day we bless you  
R. we praise your name forever.  
V. O God, keep us without sin today;  
R. have mercy on us, O God, have mercy.  
V. Show us your love and mercy;  
R. for we put our trust in you.  
V. In you, O God, is our hope;  
R. and we shall never hope in vain.

### **The Collects**

#### **The Collect of the Day**

*Officiant*

Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your holy martyr Bernard Mizeki: Grant unto us your servants a like faith and power of love, that we, who rejoice in his triumph, may profit by his example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Together*

## **A Collect for Guidance**

O God, our Creator and Sustainer, 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 life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Together, Led by Responder*

## **For People Facing Uncertainty**

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us all as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. Amen.

*The Officiant says*

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving and intercession at this time.

*(During the silence people may add their own prayers. **Please unmute yourself to share your prayer aloud. When you have completed your prayer, return the microphone to mute.**)*

*The Officiant concludes with the Collect for Mission*

## **A Collect for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## **A Litany of Thanksgiving**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and

sky and sea.

*We thank you, God.*

For all that is gracious in the lives of all peoples,  
revealing the image of Christ,

*We thank you, God.*

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and  
our friends,

*We thank you, God.*

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

*We thank you, God.*

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

*We thank you, God.*

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering  
and faithful in adversity,

*We thank you, God.*

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

*We thank you, God.*

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

*We thank you, God.*

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and  
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Redeemer;

*To him be praise and glory, with you, O Creator, and the  
Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

*Together*

God of work and rest and pleasure, Grant that what we do today may be  
for us an offering rather than a burden; And for those we serve, may it be  
the help they need. Amen.

## **Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us bless God.

*People* To God be thanks forever.

## **Concluding Sentences**

*Officiant says one of the following*

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

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **Commemoration**

Bernard Mizeki was born around the year 1861 in Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique). In his early teens, he left his native land and came to Cape Town, South Africa, where he was befriended by Anglican missionaries. He was baptized on March 9, 1886, and trained as a catechist, becoming a much-beloved teacher.

In 1891, Bernard Mizeki volunteered to serve as catechist for the pioneer mission in Mashonaland (a region in what is now northern Zimbabwe) and was stationed at Nhowe. On June 18, 1896, during an uprising of the native people against the Europeans and their African friends, Bernard was marked out especially. Though warned to flee, he would not desert his converts at the mission station. He was stabbed to death, but his body was never found, and the exact site of his burial is unknown.

A shrine near Bernard's place of martyrdom attracts many pilgrims today, and the Anglican Churches of Central and Southern Africa honor him as their primary native martyr and witness.

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