



August 13, 2014 Search Committee of Trinity Episcopal Church

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving 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.

Reflection

It is for you that we live, Lord our God,
and to you we have consecrated this day;
perfect and purify our offering,
so that our prayer of thanksgiving may rise to you,
in Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Sleeman, Simon (2001-01-01). The Glenstal Book of Prayer: A Benedictine Prayer Book (p. 45). The Columba Press. Kindle Edition.

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Closing

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame: deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

Glory be.

The Collect

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

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Reflection

Vestries and other parish leaders should remember that they are acting not only in their own name but in trust for the people of God in their congregation.

It is a God-given responsibility: first to seek God's will for the community of the New Covenant (BCP, page 854) where you are; and then, of equal importance to seek someone whom God is calling to be your leader. Parishes, therefore, do not interview priests only in order to “hire” them to fulfill a contract. Neither do priests come “applying” for positions only to suit some personal ambition of their own. Parish leaders and priests come together with a common faith and a common task—to seek the guidance and will of God for God's people in that particular time and place.

When the hearts of all concerned are open to God's guidance, then we have grounds for hope that God will bless the call and support the covenant between parish and priest. Interviewing, therefore, is perhaps the most critical and vital part of the calling process.

It is indeed a time for *inter-viewing*—a time for priest and people to view each other searchingly through the eyes of faith—to pray hard for each other, to ask hard questions, and finally to make hard decisions.

That we will do our part, and priests will do theirs, we can only pray. That God will do God's part, we have no doubt.