

Readings for Evening Prayer, Thursday, March 26, 2020
The Feast of Richard Allen, First Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1831.

Psalm 136 *Confitemini*

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| 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever. | 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of
it, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, *
for his mercy endures for ever. | 15 But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red
Sea, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, *
for his mercy endures for ever. | 16 Who led his people through the wilderness, *
for his mercy endures for ever. |
| 4 Who only does great wonders, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 17 Who struck down great kings, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 5 Who by wisdom made the heavens, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 18 And slew mighty kings, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 6 Who spread out the earth upon the waters, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 7 Who created great lights, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 20 And Og, the king of Bashan, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 8 The sun to rule the day, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 21 And gave away their lands for an inheritance, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
for his mercy endures for ever. | 22 An inheritance for Israel his servant, *
for his mercy endures for ever. |
| 10 Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 23 Who remembered us in our low estate, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 11 And brought out Israel from among them, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 24 And delivered us from our enemies, *
for his mercy endures for ever; |
| 12 With a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 25 Who gives food to all creatures, *
for his mercy endures for ever. |
| 13 Who divided the Red Sea in two, *
for his mercy endures for ever; | 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, *
for his mercy endures for ever. |

Exodus 6:1-11

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: Indeed, by a mighty hand he will let them go; by a mighty hand he will drive them out of his land.'

God also spoke to Moses and said to him: 'I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name "The Lord" I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the Israelites, "I am the Lord, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgement. I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord." ' Moses told this to the Israelites; but they would not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and their cruel slavery.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his land.'

John 7:25-31

Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, 'Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.' Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, 'You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me.' Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, 'When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?'

Collect (contemporary language)

Loving God, who makes us all your children by adoption in Jesus Christ: May we, following the example of your servant Richard Allen, proclaim liberty to all who are enslaved and captive in this world; through Jesus Christ, Savior of all, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.