

**Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

*Absalom Jones, Priest 1818*

**The Collect**

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Old Testament**

**Isaiah 11:1-5**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

**Psalm 137:1-6**

1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, \*  
**when we remembered you, O Zion.**

2 As for our harps, we hung them up \*  
**on the trees in the midst of that land.**

3 For those who led us away captive asked us for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: \*  
**"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."**

4 How shall we sing the LORD'S song \*  
**upon an alien soil.**

5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, \*  
**let my right hand forget its skill.**

6 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, \*  
**if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.**

**The New Testament****Galatians 5:1-5**

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

**The Gospel****John 15:12-15**

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."