

The Collect of the Day: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to preach the gospel to those who were far off and to those who were near: Raise up, in this and every land, evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 19:7-11 *Read responsively by the half-verse, breaking at the asterisk.*

BCP p. 607

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,*
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, * **and in keeping them there is great reward.**

First Reading: A Reading from the Book of James (1:2-5)

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: A Reading from the Gospel of Mark (4:21-25)

Jesus said to the disciples, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alexander Crummell, Priest, 1898: Born March 3, 1819, in New York City, Alexander Crummell struggled against racism all his life. As a young man of color, he was driven out of an academy in New Hampshire, dismissed as a candidate for Holy Orders in New York, and rejected for admittance to General Seminary. Ordained in 1844 as a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts, he left for England after being excluded from participating in diocesan convention. After receiving a degree from Cambridge University, he went as a missionary to Liberia, where a model Christian republic seemed possible. The vision embraced by Crummell included European education and technology, traditional African communal culture, and a national Episcopal Church headed by a Black bishop. He traveled extensively in the United States, urging Black people to emigrate to Liberia and to support the work of the Episcopal Church there. Upon returning to Liberia, he worked to establish a national Episcopal Church. Political opposition and a loss of funding finally forced him to return to the United States, where he concentrated his efforts on establishing a strong urban presence of independent Black congregations that would be centers of worship, education, and social service. When Southern bishops proposed that a separate missionary district be created for Black congregations, Crummell created a national convocation to defeat the proposal. The Union of Black Episcopalians is an outgrowth of that organization. Crummell's ministry spanned more than half a century and three continents. Everywhere, at all times, he labored to prepare Black people and to build institutions that would serve them and provide scope for the exercises of their gifts in leadership and creativity. His faith in God, his perseverance in spite of repeated discouragement, his perception that the church transcended the racism and limited vision of its leaders, and his unfailing belief in the goodness and greatness of Black people are the legacy of this African American pioneer. He died in Red Bank, New Jersey, in 1898.