

Worship Resources  
for  
**St. Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167**

January 12

**Suggestions for a Eucharist in celebration of St. Aelred**

Liturgical materials from *Enriching Our Worship 1* (EOW 1) are especially appropriate for the feast of St. Aelred as these texts emphasize that, “the mystery of God transcends all categories of knowing, including those of masculine and feminine.”<sup>1</sup>

Recommended texts include the Opening Acclamation, Salutation, Nicene Creed (using “who instead of “he” for the Holy Spirit and without the contested filioque), and Confession (with its reference to “the evil done our behalf” as particularly appropriate in light of the systems oppression that reinforce heterosexism).<sup>2</sup>

Eucharistic prayer 1 from EOW 1 offers language such as “You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love,” and “You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.”

Additionally, the institution narrative in this prayer refers to Jesus giving the bread and the cup to his friends.

The first fraction anthem on p. 69 of EOW 1 appropriately emphasizes “one body,” reminding us that LGBT people are part of the body of Christ.

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<sup>1</sup> *Enriching Our Worship 1*, p. 5

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, p. 50-56

## **Suggested Elements of a Eucharistic Service on or about the Feast of St. Aelred**

### **THE PREFACE OF A SAINT (2)**

### **THE COLLECT (FROM LESSER FEASTS AND FASTS, 2006)**

Pour into our hearts, O God, the Holy Spirit's gift of love, that we, clasping each the other's hand, may share the joy of friendship, human and divine, and with your servant Aelred draw many to your community of love; through Jesus Christ the Righteous, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### **COLLECT (FROM HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN)**

Almighty God, you endowed the abbot Aelred with the gift of Christian friendship and the wisdom to lead others in the way of holiness: Grant to your people that same spirit of mutual affection, that, in loving one another, we may know the love of Christ and rejoice in the gift of your eternal goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### **COLLECT (FROM INTEGRITY CONNECTICUT)**

Loving God, you have lived among us and you have called us friends. Inspire us through the life of your servant Aelred to create relationships that show forth the intimate embrace of sacred love. Grant that the witness of our loving relationships may draw all people into the embrace of your unbounded love, through Jesus Christ, who loved as we love. *Amen.*

### **THE FIRST LESSON**

#### **Philippians 2:1-4**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

## THE PSALM

### Psalm 36:5-10 Page 632, BCP

#### *Dixit injustus*

- 5 Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, \*  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep; \*  
you save both man and beast, O LORD.
- 7 How priceless is your love, O God! \*  
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
- 8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; \*  
you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- 9 For with you is the well of life, \*  
and in your light we see light.
- 10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, \*  
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

*or*

### Psalm 145:8-13 Page 802, BCP

#### *Exaltabo te, Deus*

- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The LORD is loving to everyone \*  
and his compassion is over all his works.
- 10 All your works praise you, O LORD, \*  
and your faithful servants bless you.
- 11 They make known the glory of your kingdom \*  
and speak of your power;
- 12 That the peoples may know of your power \*  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; \*  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

## THE GOSPEL

### John 15:9-17

Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"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. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

*or*

### **Mark 12:28-34a**

One of the scribes came near and heard the Saducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'--this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

### **A reading from St. Aelred:**

*"It is no small consolation in this life to have someone to whom you can be united in the intimate embrace of the most sacred love; in whom your spirit can rest; to whom you can pour out your soul; in whose delightful company, as in a sweet consoling song, you can take comfort in the midst of sadness; in whose most welcome, friendly bosom you can find peace in so many worldly setbacks; to whose loving heart you can open, as freely as you would to yourself, your innermost thoughts; through whose spiritual kisses – as by some medicine – you are cured of the sickness of care and worry; who weeps with you in sorrow, rejoices with you in joy, and wonders with you in doubt; whom you draw by the fetters of love into that inner room of your soul, so that though the body is absent, the spirit is there, and you can confer all alone, the two of you, in the sleep of peace away from the noise of the world, in the embrace of love, in the kiss of unity, with the Holy Spirit flowing over you; to whom you so join and unite yourself that you mix soul with soul, and two become one."*<sup>3</sup>

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE FEAST OF ST. AELRED**

*These prayers may be used with our without the litany for those who suffer and the litany of thanksgiving. If appropriate and desired, the people may be invited to name those for whom they pray, with a phrase such as "whom we now name." There is no need for a concluding collect if the conclusion is used.*

Holy and life-giving God, today we give thanks for intimate friendships and sacred love as we celebrate St. Aelred of Rievaulx.

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<sup>3</sup> From *On Spiritual Friendship* by St. Aelred of Rievaulx

God of love, you sent your Son to become one of us, and so he knew the joy of intimate friendship and human love. We pray that the Church may show forth the patient and compassionate love of your son Jesus to all people, that they may be drawn to life-giving relationships with you and with one another.

God of love, we know that the world is not yet your realm on earth. We pray for those in power. Inspire the hearts of the leaders of nations and people that they might be moved to compassion and action for the many who are shunned, mocked, wounded, and killed because of who they love.

Hear our prayers for those who suffer.

For those who are wounded by churches and religious leaders,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who have only heard that God hates them,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who are bullied in schools,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those whose families turn them away,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who are sick and have no one to care for them,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who live on the streets and face violence because of their identity,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who are in prison and are victimized by inmates and guards,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who cannot visit the graves of their loved ones,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For the families of those who have committed suicide,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who cannot visit their loved ones in hospitals,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who face financial insecurity because their relationships are not recognized by civil authorities,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For those whose families are not treated as such,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer from the discrimination, misunderstanding, hatred and fear of others,  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

God of love, you created astonishing diversity in all that lives, and blessed it as good. We pray that the gifts of your lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children may be recognized, welcomed, and celebrated both in the Church and in the world.

Hear our thanksgivings for the reality of love in the world.

For those to whom we are united in the intimate embrace of sacred love  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For the gift of chosen families  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For the gift of love and celebration in our own communities  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For those who in the LGBT community who work tirelessly for justice  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For those allies who work tirelessly on behalf of LGBT people  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For those in power who make known their positions for inclusion  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For leaders of nations and people who actively work for justice for all  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For churches where diversity is welcomed and celebrated,  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For religious leaders who speak up for all,  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For courageous teachers and students, who stand up for those who are bullied  
**We give thanks, O God.**

For foster parents and adoptive parents who take in children who have been cast aside because of their identity  
**We give thanks, O God.**

### *Conclusion*

God of love, we rejoice in the company Aelred of Rievaulx and of all your saints, past, present, and future, celebrated and unknown. We commend ourselves, all those we love, and all our life, to Jesus our brother, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Hymn Suggestions

### PSALM

36:6	423	Immortal, invisible, God only wise	<i>St. Denio</i>
145	404	We will extol you, ever-blesses Lord	<i>Old 124th</i>
145:1-12	414	God, my King, thy might confessing	<i>Stuttgart</i>
145:13	24	The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended	<i>St. Clement</i>

### GOSPEL

John 15:13	319	You, Lord, we praise in songs of celebration	<i>Gott sei gelobet</i>
	458	My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me	<i>Love Unknown</i>
John 15:14-16	348	Lord, we have come at you own invitation	<i>O quanta qualia</i>
John 15:16	706	In your mercy, Lord, you called me	<i>Halton Holgate</i>
John 15:16b	518	Christ is made the sure foundation	<i>Westminster Abbey</i>
John 15:9-17	392	Come, we that love the Lord	<i>Vineyard Haven</i>
	344	Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing	<i>Sicilian Mariners</i>
	348	Lord, we have come at your own invitation	<i>O quanta qualia</i>
	610	Lord, whose love through humble service	<i>Blaenhafren</i>
	831	Ubi caritas et amor (Wonder, Love and Praise Hymnal)	
Mark 12:28-34a	382	King of glory, King of peace	<i>General Seminary</i>
	424	For the fruit of all creation	<i>East Acklam</i>
	551	Rise up, ye saints of God	<i>Festal Song</i>
	581	Where charity and love prevail	<i>Cheshire</i>
	602	Jesu, Jesu, fill us with you love	<i>Chereponi</i>
	815	Jesus said: the first commandment is this (Wonder, Love and Praise Hymnal)	

### GENERAL

		Hymn for St. Aelred*	<i>Integrity</i>
		Who stands excluded as we dine**	<i>Budwey</i>
	576	God is love, and where true love is	<i>Mandatum</i>
	577	God is love, and where true love is	<i>Ubi caritas (Murray)</i>
	606	Where true charity and love dwell	<i>Ubi caritas</i>

*For additional hymn texts and tunes see "A heart to praise our God: Celebrating lesbian & gay poets & composers" a Hymn Festival printed in The Hymn, Vol. 62, No. 3, Autumn 2011, Script and Commentary by Jim Mitulski and Donna Hamilton with additional research by Nancy Hall.*

\* available at [www.IntegrityUSA.org/aelred](http://www.IntegrityUSA.org/aelred) - free use by Integrity-related groups and parishes. Other groups can obtain permission by emailing [blandman@trinityhartford.org](mailto:blandman@trinityhartford.org) or [info@integrityusa.org](mailto:info@integrityusa.org).

\*\* available from the composer - to obtain a copy and permission for single event use, contact [sbudwey@hotmail.com](mailto:sbudwey@hotmail.com).

## Anthem Suggestions

### PSALM

Psalm 36:5-10	How Precious Is Thy Loving Kindness  Thy Mercy Jehovah Loving Kindness	Samuel Adler Daniel Pinkham Benedetto Marcello Henry Purcell
Psalm 145:8-15	Hallelujah, <i>Messiah</i> O God My King	G. F. Handel John Amner

### GOSPEL

John 15:9-17	A new commandment  Greater Love Hath no Man I Sat Down Under His Shadow If Ye Love Me My Eyes for Beauty Pine Wondrous Love The Father's Love	Richard Shephard Thomas Tallis John Ireland Edward Bairstow various Herbert Howells Paul J. Christiansen Simon Lole
Mark 12:28-34a	Greater Love Hath no Man If Ye Love Me Ubi caritas	John Ireland various Maurice Duruflé

### GENERAL

Prayer of St. Aelred*	Bert Landman
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\* available from the composer. To obtain copies, contact [blandman@trinityhartford.org](mailto:blandman@trinityhartford.org) or [info@integrityusa.org](mailto:info@integrityusa.org)