Morning Prayer

Monday, December 14, 2026

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer, save us all,
and hear your servants when they call.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things in heaven and earth shall own
that you are Lord and King alone.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Psalm 84 *Show Us Your Mercy*

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; have mercy on us, who have sinned against you.*

O Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people; you have covered all their sins.

You have mitigated all your anger; you have turned away from the wrath of your indignation.

Convert us, O God our salvation, and turn away your anger from us.

Will you be angry with us forever, or will you extend your wrath from generation to generation?

O God, you will turn and bring us to life, and your people will rejoice in you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God speaks to me; for he will speak peace to his people.

And to his holy ones: and to those who are converted to the heart.

Yet truly his salvation is near to those who fear him, so that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met each other; justice and peace have kissed.

Truth has sprung out of the earth, and justice has looked down from heaven.

For the Lord will give goodness, and our earth will give its fruit.

Justice will walk before him, and he will set his steps in the way.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; have mercy on us, who have sinned against you.*

Psalm 96 *Sing to the Lord a New Song*

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; have mercy on us, who have sinned against you.*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; proclaim his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the Gentiles, his wonders among all peoples.

For the Lord is great and exceedingly to be praised; he is terrible above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are statues; but the Lord made the heavens.

Praise and beauty are before him; holiness and majesty are in his sanctuary.

Bring to the Lord, O families of the Gentiles; bring to the Lord glory and honor.

Bring to the Lord glory for his name; bring sacrifices and enter into his courts.

Adore the Lord in his holy court; let all the earth be moved before his face.

Say among the Gentiles: "The Lord has reigned."

For he has also established the world which will not be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth exult; let the sea be moved and its fullness.

The fields and all things that are in them will be joyful.

Then all the trees of the forests will exult before the face of the Lord, for he comes.

For he comes to judge the earth; he will judge the world with equity and the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; have mercy on us, who have sinned against you.*

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (ISAIAH 40:10–17)

Behold, the Lord God will come with strength, and his arm will rule.

Behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arm and lift them up in his bosom.

He himself will carry those who are with young.

Who has measured the waters in his fist, and weighed the heavens with his palm?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a third part, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

Who has helped the spirit of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor and has taught him?

With whom has he taken counsel, who instructed him and taught him the path of justice?

Behold, the nations are as a drop from a bucket, and are counted as the smallest grain of a scale.

Behold, the islands are as a little dust.

And Lebanon will not be sufficient to burn, nor its animals sufficient for a burnt offering.

All nations are before him as if they had no being at all, and they are counted to him as nothing and empty.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SHORT READING

ZECHARIAH 8:3

> Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and I will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem will be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts will be called the holy mountain.

RESPONSORY

V. Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay.

V. Give new courage to your people,

R. who trust in your word.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: BENEDICTUS (LUKE 1:68-79)

THE CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (BENEDICTUS) (LUKE 1:68–79)

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of your people.*

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and accomplished the redemption of his people.

And he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David his servant.

As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets, those who have been from the beginning:

Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant to us,

that being freed from the hand of our enemies, we might serve him without fear,

in holiness and justice before him, throughout all our days.

And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the face of the Lord, to prepare his ways.

To give knowledge of salvation to his people, for the remission of their sins,

through the compassionate mercy of our God, by which the Rising Sun has visited us from on high,

to illuminate those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct our feet in the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of your people.*

MORNING INTERCESSIONS

As we wait for the coming of our Lord, let us pray with longing hearts, saying:

For the whole church, that it may be a community of watchful hope, living in expectation of your return: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For those who do not yet know you, that the light of your gospel may dawn in their hearts: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For all who are burdened by sorrow, that Advent hope may sustain them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For a spirit of generosity in this season, that the poor may experience the justice of your coming kingdom: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For our parish community, that we may prepare together with prayer and love for the mystery of Christmas: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*

For ourselves, that we may make room in our hearts for the Christ who comes: we pray to you, O Lord. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as the Lord himself has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come! Protect us by your strength, so that we who are burdened by our sins may receive your gracious forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless us: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.