Morning Prayer

Monday, December 21, 2026

Saint Peter Canisius, 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 90 *The Protection of the Most High*

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

He who dwells in the aid of the Most High will abide under the protection of the God of heaven.

He will say to the Lord: "You are my supporter and my refuge; my God, I will trust in him."

For he has rescued me from the snare of hunters and from sharp words.

With his shoulders he will overshadow you, and under his wings you will trust.

His truth will surround you like a shield; you will not fear the terror of the night.

Nor the arrow flying in the day, nor the destruction proceeding in darkness, nor the attack of the noonday devil.

A thousand will fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not draw near to you.

Yet truly you will consider with your eyes, and you will see the reward of sinners.

For you, O Lord, are my hope; you have made the Most High your refuge.

Evil will not approach you, and the scourge will not come near your tabernacle.

For he has given his angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

They will carry you on their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You will walk upon the asp and the basilisk, and you will trample upon the lion and the dragon.

Because he hoped in me, I will free him; I will protect him, because he has known my name.

He will call upon me, and I will hear him; I am with him in tribulation; I will rescue him and glorify him.

I will satisfy him with length of days, and I will reveal my salvation to him.

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 135 *Psalm 135*

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

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 66:10–14)

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her.

Rejoice for joy with her, all you that mourn for her.

That you may suck and be filled with the breast of her consolations.

That you may milk out and flow with delights, from the abundance of her glory.

For thus says the Lord: "Behold I will bring upon her as it were a river of peace, and as an overflowing torrent the glory of the Gentiles."

"Which you will suck; you will be carried at the breasts, and upon the knees they will caress you."

"As one whom the mother caresses, so will I comfort you, and in Jerusalem you will be comforted."

"You will see and your heart will rejoice, and your bones will flourish like a herb."

"And the hand of the Lord will be known to his servants, and he will be angry with his enemies."

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.