

## Morning Prayer

Wednesday, November 24



### Opening Sentence

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *Psalm 43:3*

### Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

### Versicle and Response

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall 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. Alleluia.

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

Come let us adore him.

### Jubilate

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: the Lord himself is God;

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

### **Antiphon**

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:  
Come let us adore him.

### **Psalm 119: 145-176**

*Qoph Clamavi in toto corde meo*

<sup>145</sup>I call with my whole heart; \*  
answer me, O Lord, that I may keep your statutes.  
<sup>146</sup>I call to you;  
oh, that you would save me! \*  
I will keep your decrees.  
<sup>147</sup>Early in the morning I cry out to you, \*  
for in your word is my trust.  
<sup>148</sup>My eyes are open in the night watches, \*  
that I may meditate upon your promise.  
<sup>149</sup>Hear my voice, O Lord, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
according to your judgments, give me life.  
<sup>150</sup>They draw near who in malice persecute me; \*  
they are very far from your law.  
<sup>151</sup>You, O Lord, are near at hand, \*  
and all your commandments are true.  
<sup>152</sup>Long have I known from your decrees \*  
that you have established them forever.

*Resh Vide humilitatem*

<sup>153</sup>Behold my affliction and deliver me, \*  
for I do not forget your law.  
<sup>154</sup>Plead my cause and redeem me; \*  
according to your promise, give me life.  
<sup>155</sup>Deliverance is far from the wicked, \*  
for they do not study your statutes.  
<sup>156</sup>Great is your compassion, O Lord; \*  
preserve my life, according to your judgments.  
<sup>157</sup>There are many who persecute and oppress me, \*  
yet I have not swerved from your decrees.  
<sup>158</sup>I look with loathing at the faithless, \*  
for they have not kept your word.  
<sup>159</sup>See how I love your commandments! \*  
O Lord, in your mercy, preserve me.  
<sup>160</sup>The heart of your word is truth; \*  
all your righteous judgments endure forevermore.

*Shin Principes persecuti sunt*

<sup>161</sup>Rulers have persecuted me without a cause, \*  
but my heart stands in awe of your word.  
<sup>162</sup>I am as glad because of your promise \*

as one who finds great spoils.  
163As for lies, I hate and abhor them, \*  
but your law is my love.  
164Seven times a day do I praise you, \*  
because of your righteous judgments.  
165Great peace have they who love your law; \*  
for them there is no stumbling block.  
166I have hoped for your salvation, O Lord, \*  
and have fulfilled your commandments.  
167I have kept your decrees \*  
and I have loved them deeply.  
168I have kept your commandments and decrees, \*  
for all my ways are before you.

#### *Taw Appropinquet deprecatio*

169Let my cry come before you, O Lord; \*  
give me understanding, according to your word.  
170Let my supplication come before you; \*  
deliver me, according to your promise.  
171My lips shall pour forth your praise, \*  
when you teach me your statutes.  
172My tongue shall sing of your promise, \*  
for all your commandments are righteous.  
173Let your hand be ready to help me, \*  
for I have chosen your commandments.  
174I long for your salvation, O Lord, \*  
and your law is my delight.  
175Let me live, and I will praise you, \*  
and let your judgments help me.  
176I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; \*  
search for your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.

#### **Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen. *Amen.*

#### **The Old Testament Lesson**

##### *Obadiah 15-21*

15For the day of the Lord is near against all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. 16For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, all the nations around you shall drink; they shall drink and gulp down and shall be as though they had never been.  
17But on Mount Zion there shall be those that escape, and it shall be holy; and the house of Jacob shall take possession of those who dispossessed them. 18The house of Jacob shall be a fire, the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor of the house of Esau; for the Lord has

spoken. <sup>19</sup>Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah the land of the Philistines; they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. <sup>20</sup>The exiles of the Israelites who are in Halah shall possess Phoenicia as far as Zarephath; and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the towns of the Negeb. <sup>21</sup>Those who have been saved shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Canticle 11 The Third Song of Isaiah**

*Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

*Surge, illuminare*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.  
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.*

### **The New Testament Lesson**

*1 Peter 2:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup>and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous

light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **Canticle 16**

### **The Song of Zechariah**

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

*Luke 1:68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into 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.*

## **The Gospel**

*Matthew 19:23-30*

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you; it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup>Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>25</sup>When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>26</sup>But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." <sup>27</sup>Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" <sup>28</sup>Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup>And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. *Amen.*

### **Suffrages**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
Govern and uphold them, now and always.  
Day by day we bless you;  
We praise your Name forever.  
Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
For we put our trust in you.  
In you, Lord, is our hope;  
And we shall never hope in vain.

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### **For Mission**

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Collect of Commemoration**

Embolden your church, O God, with the stories of your saints Catherine, Barbara, and Margaret, that we might face all trials and adversities with a fearless mind and an unbroken spirit, knowing that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ who strengthens us. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen.*

### **Trinity Cycle of Prayer**

*Jim Kelly*

Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

### **Benediction**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

## The Commemoration

On this day are remembered three women martyrs who were some of the most popular saints in ancient and mediaeval times, but who are today regarded as of doubtful historicity. Nevertheless, their stories have inspired Christians over the centuries.

**Catherine of Alexandria's** story has caught the popular imagination of many generations (she is, for example, one of the personages from whom Joan of Arc claimed to receive regular visits and messages), although most scholars judge it to be simply a work of fiction with no historical basis. No references to her can be traced earlier than the ninth (or possibly the eighth) century.

It is said that Catherine was a Christian maiden of Alexandria in Egypt, possessed of beauty, brains, and noble birth. She rebuked the heathen emperor Maxentius for his idolatry, and he responded by offering to marry her if she would renounce her faith. She refused. Fifty philosophers were set to refute her in a public debate. She easily won every point and made them look foolish. The emperor, a sore loser, had them burned alive. The emperor went out of town on business, and when he returned, he discovered that Catherine had converted his queen and the 200 soldiers of the empress's bodyguard. This was too much. He had the Empress and her soldiers put to death. Catherine was sentenced to be tortured on a spiked wheel, but the wheel flew apart and the fragments killed many of her accusers. After this and other marvels, Catherine was beheaded, and from her veins flowed not blood but milk. The angels carried her to Mount Sinai, where St. Catherine's Monastery is now located. She is depicted carrying a spiked wheel, representing the manner in which it was proposed to put her to death. The "Catherine-wheel," a form of fireworks that spins as it burns, is named for her.

Catherine is patron of preachers, philosophers, librarians (probably association with the Library of Alexandria), young girls, and craftsmen working with a wheel (potters, spinners, etc). The Mt. Sinai monastery was built by Justinian in 527 and has borne the name of Catherine since the eighth or ninth century. The monastery survives unmolested by the moslems (by express command of Mohammed) and has a vast but uncatalogued treasure of ancient manuscripts. One of the earliest known manuscripts of the complete New Testament, the Codex Sinaiticus, was found there, borrowed by the finder, and never returned to the monastery. (I believe that it is now in the British Museum.) Since then, they have been a bit crusty to visiting scholars.

written by James Kiefer

**Barbara of Nicomedia, or Great Martyr Barbara,** was an early Christian Greek saint and martyr. Accounts place her in the 3rd century in Heliopolis of Phoenicia, present-day Baalbek, Lebanon. There is no reference to her in the authentic early Christian writings nor in the original recension of [Saint Jerome's martyrology](#). Her name can be traced to the 7th century, and veneration of her was common, especially in the East, from the 9th century.

Saint Barbara is often portrayed with miniature chains and a tower. As one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, Barbara continues to be a popular saint in modern times, perhaps best known as the patron saint of armourers, artillerymen, military engineers, miners and others who work with explosives because of her old legend's association with lightning.

According to the hagiographies, Barbara, the daughter of a rich pagan, was carefully guarded by her father who kept her locked up in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world. Having secretly become a Christian, she rejected an offer of marriage that she received through her father.

Dragged before the prefect of the province, Martinianus, who had her cruelly tortured, Barbara held true to her Christian faith. During the night, the dark prison was bathed in light and new miracles occurred. Every morning, her wounds were healed. Torches that were to

be used to burn her went out as soon as they came near her. Finally, she was condemned to death by beheading. Her father himself carried out the death-sentence. However, as punishment for this, he was struck by lightning on the way home and his body was consumed by flame. Barbara was buried by a Christian, Valentinus, and her tomb became the site of miracles.

More at [Wikipedia](#)

**Margaret**, known as **Margaret of Antioch** in the West, and as **Saint Marina the Great Martyr** in the East, is said to have been martyred in 304, but was declared apocryphal by Pope Gelasius I in 494, however devotion to her revived in the West with the Crusades. According to the version of the story in [Golden Legend](#), she was a native of Antioch and the daughter of a pagan priest named Aedesius. Her mother having died soon after her birth, Margaret was nursed by a Christian woman. Having embraced Christianity and consecrated her virginity to God, Margaret was disowned by her father, adopted by her nurse, and lived in the country keeping sheep with her foster mother (in what is now Turkey). Olybrius, Governor of the Roman Diocese of the East, asked to marry her, but with the demand that she renounces Christianity. Upon her refusal, she was cruelly tortured, during which various miraculous incidents occurred. One of these involved being swallowed by Satan in the shape of a dragon, from which she escaped alive when the cross she carried irritated the dragon's innards.

The [Sisters of St. Margaret](#) were named for this St. Margaret.  
more at [Wikipedia](#)