

## Morning Prayer

Friday, August 12



### Opening Sentence

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. *John 4:23*

### 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.

### Antiphon

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

**Psalm 102** *Domine, exaudi*

<sup>1</sup>Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; \*  
hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.  
<sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me; \*  
when I call, make haste to answer me,  
<sup>3</sup>For my days drift away like smoke, \*  
and my bones are hot as burning coals.  
<sup>4</sup>My heart is smitten like grass and withered, \*  
so that I forget to eat my bread.  
<sup>5</sup>Because of the voice of my groaning \*  
I am but skin and bones.  
<sup>6</sup>I have become like a vulture in the wilderness, \*  
like an owl among the ruins.  
<sup>7</sup>I lie awake and groan; \*  
I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.  
<sup>8</sup>My enemies revile me all day long, \*  
and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.  
<sup>9</sup>For I have eaten ashes for bread \*  
and mingled my drink with weeping.  
<sup>10</sup>Because of your indignation and wrath \*  
you have lifted me up and thrown me away.  
<sup>11</sup>My days pass away like a shadow, \*  
and I wither like the grass.  
<sup>12</sup>But you, O Lord, endure forever, \*  
and your Name from age to age.  
<sup>13</sup>You will arise and have compassion on Zion,  
for it is time to have mercy upon her; \*  
indeed, the appointed time has come.  
<sup>14</sup>For your servants love her very rubble, \*  
and are moved to pity even for her dust.  
<sup>15</sup>The nations shall fear your Name, O Lord, \*  
and all the kings of the earth your glory.  
<sup>16</sup>For the Lord will build up Zion, \*  
and his glory will appear.  
<sup>17</sup>He will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless; \*  
he will not despise their plea.  
<sup>18</sup>Let this be written for a future generation, \*  
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.  
<sup>19</sup>For the Lord looked down from his holy place on high; \*  
from the heavens he beheld the earth;  
<sup>20</sup>That he might hear the groan of the captive \*  
and set free those condemned to die;  
<sup>21</sup>That they may declare in Zion the Name of the Lord, \*  
and his praise in Jerusalem;  
<sup>22</sup>When the peoples are gathered together, \*

and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.  
<sup>23</sup>He has brought down my strength before my time; \*  
he has shortened the number of my days;  
<sup>24</sup>And I said, "O my God,  
do not take me away in the midst of my days; \*  
your years endure throughout all generations.  
<sup>25</sup>In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations  
of the earth, \*  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
<sup>26</sup>They shall perish, but you will endure;  
they all shall wear out like a garment; \*  
as clothing you will change them,  
and they shall be changed;  
<sup>27</sup>But you are always the same, \*  
and your years will never end.  
<sup>28</sup>The children of your servants shall continue, \*  
and their offspring shall stand fast in your sight."

### **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 First Lesson**

*A reading from Judges 14:20-15:20*

<sup>20</sup>And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.  
<sup>1</sup>After a while, at the time of the wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife, bringing along a kid. He said, "I want to go into my wife's room." But her father would not allow him to go in. <sup>2</sup>Her father said, "I was sure that you had rejected her; so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister prettier than she? Why not take her instead?" <sup>3</sup>Samson said to them, "This time, when I do mischief to the Philistines, I will be without blame." <sup>4</sup>So Samson went and caught three hundred foxes and took some torches; and he turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. <sup>5</sup>When he had set fire to the torches, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves. <sup>6</sup>Then the Philistines asked, "Who has done this?" And they said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken Samson's wife and given her to his companion." So, the Philistines came up, and burned her and her father. <sup>7</sup>Samson said to them, "If this is what you do, I swear I will not stop until I have taken revenge on you." <sup>8</sup>He struck them down hip and thigh with great slaughter; and he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.  
<sup>9</sup>Then the Philistines came up and encamped in Judah and made a raid on Lehi. <sup>10</sup>The men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" They said, "We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he did to us." <sup>11</sup>Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and they said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then have you done to us?" He replied, "As they did to me, so I have done to them." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "We have come down to bind you, so that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." Samson answered them, "Swear to me that you yourselves will not attack me." <sup>13</sup>They said to him, "No, we will only bind you and give you into their

hands; we will not kill you." So, they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him up from the rock. <sup>14</sup>When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him; and the spirit of the Lord rushed on him, and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. <sup>15</sup>Then he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached down and took it, and with it he killed a thousand men. <sup>16</sup>And Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men." <sup>17</sup>When he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone; and that place was called Ramath-lehi.

<sup>18</sup>By then he was very thirsty, and he called on the Lord, saying, "You have granted this great victory by the hand of your servant. Am I now to die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" <sup>19</sup>So God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came from it. When he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore, it was named En-hakkore, which is at Lehi to this day. <sup>20</sup>And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years. The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 10** The Second Song of Isaiah *Quaerite Dominum*

*Isaiah 55:6-1*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \*  
call upon him when he draws near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways \*  
and the evil ones their thoughts;  
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, \*  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \*  
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, \*  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens \*  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth, \*  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \*  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \*  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.  
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 Second Lesson**

*A reading from Acts 7:17-29*

<sup>17</sup>"But as the time drew near for the fulfillment of the promise that God had made to Abraham, our people in Egypt increased and multiplied <sup>18</sup>until another king who had not known Joseph ruled over Egypt. <sup>19</sup>He dealt craftily with our race and forced our ancestors to abandon their infants so that they would die. <sup>20</sup>At this time Moses was born, and he was beautiful before God. For three months he was brought up in his father's house; <sup>21</sup>and when he was abandoned, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. <sup>22</sup>So Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and deeds. <sup>23</sup>"When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his relatives,

the Israelites. <sup>24</sup>When he saw one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian. <sup>25</sup>He supposed that his kinsfolk would understand that God through him was rescuing them, but they did not understand. <sup>26</sup>The next day he came to some of them as they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you wrong each other?' <sup>27</sup>But the man who was wronging his neighbor pushed Moses aside, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?' <sup>28</sup>Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' <sup>29</sup>When he heard this, Moses fled and became a resident alien in the land of Midian. There he became the father of two sons.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 18** A Song to the Lamb *Dignus es*

*Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13*

Splendor and honor and kingly power \*  
are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is, \*  
and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.  
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
forever and forevermore.

### **The Gospel**

*A Gospel according to John 4:43-54*

<sup>43</sup>When the two days were over; he went from that place to Galilee <sup>44</sup>(for Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in the prophet's own country). <sup>45</sup>When he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all that, he had done in Jerusalem at the festival; for they too had gone to the festival. <sup>46</sup>Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." <sup>49</sup>The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my little boy dies." <sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. <sup>51</sup>As he was going down; his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. <sup>52</sup>So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him." <sup>53</sup>The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So, he himself believed, along with his whole household. <sup>54</sup>Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **The Apostles' 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 Prayers**

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*  
Let us pray.

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

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.*

### **The 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.

### **A Collect for Fridays**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

### **A Collect for Mission**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So, clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

### **Collect of Commemoration**

O God, who gave grace to your servant Florence Nightingale to bear your healing love into the shadow of death: Grant to all who heal the same virtues of patience, mercy, and steadfast love, that your saving health may be revealed to all; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### **Trinity Cycle of Prayer**

*Edward Green*

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*

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## **The Commemoration**

The commemoration of Florence Nightingale is controversial. On the one hand, she doubted or denied many of the central articles of the Creed. On the other hand, she believed in God and devoted her life to His service as she understood it.

She was born in Florence on 12 May 1820 of upper-class English parents travelling through Italy and named for her native city. ("Florence" was not an accepted first name at the time. Her sister was born in Naples and named "Parthenope," the Greek name for that city.)

Florence was reared in the Unitarian Church, but later joined the Church of England.

In her diary, an entry shortly before her seventeenth birthday reads: "On February 7th, 1837, God spoke to me and called me to his service." She did not know what the service would be, and therefore decided that she must remain single, so as to have no encumbrances and be ready for anything. With this in mind, she rejected a proposal of marriage from a young man whom she dearly loved.

She suffered from "trances" or "dreaming" spells, in which she would lose consciousness for several minutes or longer and be unaware when she recovered that time had passed. (Could this be a form of petit mal epilepsy? No biographer of hers that I have read uses the word.)

She found the knowledge that she was subject to such spells terrifying and feared that they meant that she was unworthy of her calling, particularly since she did not hear the voice of God again for many years.

In the spring of 1844, she came to believe that her calling was to nurse the sick. In 1850 her family sent her on a tour of Egypt for her health. Some extracts from her diary follow:

March 7. God called me in the morning and asked me would I do good for Him, for Him alone without the reputation. March 9. During half an hour I had by myself in my cabin, settled the question with God.

April 1. Not able to go out but wished God to have it all His own way. I like Him to do exactly as He likes without even telling me the reason.

May 12. Today I am thirty--the age Christ began his mission. Now no more childish things. No more love. No more marriage. Now Lord let me think only of Thy Will, what Thou wilt me to do. Oh Lord Thy Will, Thy Will.

June 10. The Lord spoke to me; he said, Give five minutes every hour to the thought of Me. Coudst thou but love Me as Lizzie loves her husband, how happy wouldst thou be." But Lizzie does not give five minutes every hour to the thought of her husband, she thinks of him every minute, spontaneously.

Florence decided that she must train to be a nurse. Her family was horrified. In her day, nursing was done mostly by disabled army veterans or by women with no other means of support.

It was common for nurses of either sex to be drunk on the job most of the time, and they had no training at all. It was common practice never to wash or change the sheets on a bed, not even when a patient died, and his bed was given to a new patient.

Florence was told to go to Kaiserswerth, Germany, to learn and train with the Lutheran order of Deaconesses who were running a hospital there.

Back in England again, she used the influence of Sidney Herbert, a family friend and Member of Parliament, to be appointed supervisor of a sanatorium in London. Under her able guidance, it turned from a chamber of horrors into a model hospital.

The innovations introduced by Miss Nightingale were, for their day, little short of revolutionary.

She demanded, and got, a system of dumb waiters that enabled food to be sent directly to every floor, so that nurses did not exhaust themselves carrying trays up numerous flights of stairs.

She also invented and had installed a system of call bells by which a patient could ring from his bed and the bell would sound in the corridor, with a valve attached to the bell which opened when the bell rang and remained open so that the nurse could see who had rung.

"Without a system of this kind," she wrote, "a nurse is converted to a pair of legs."

While working in the poorer districts of London, Miss Nightingale encountered a Roman Catholic priest, Henry Edward Manning (later Cardinal Manning), who was working among the poor of London. She was impressed by the assistance he gave to many who had nowhere else to turn, and they became friends for life. She was greatly attracted by Roman Catholicism, but rejected much of its theology, and so reluctantly decided against joining it. Then war broke out in the Crimea (in Russia, on the north edge of the Black Sea), and Sir Sidney Herbert, now Secretary of War, obtained permission for Florence to lead a group of 38 nurses there.

Of these, 10 were Roman Catholic nuns, 14 were Anglican nuns, and the remaining 14 were "of no particular religion, unless one counts the worship of Bacchus."

They found conditions appalling. Blankets were rotting in warehouses while the men did without, because no one had issued the proper forms for their distribution.

The lavatories in the hospitals had no running water, and the latrines were tubs to be emptied by hand. But no one emptied them, since official regulations did not specify which department was responsible for doing so. The result was that the hospital had a foul stench that could be smelled for some distance outside its walls. Far more men were dying in hospitals of infection than of wounds.

The chief concern of many of the Army doctors was that the nurses might usurp some of their authority.

Florence gradually managed to win the doctors and other authorities over, and to reform hospital procedures, with spectacular results.

Once the medical situation had ceased to be an acute problem, she turned her attention to other aspects of the soldiers' welfare.

For example, most of them squandered all their pay on drink. She noted that there was no trustworthy way for them to send money home to their families, and she set up facilities for them to do so.

First, she undertook to send money home herself for any soldier in the hospital that wanted it sent, and the soldiers brought in about 1000 pounds a month. She asked the authorities to set up an official service to do this, and they refused. By appealing to Queen Victoria, herself, she overcame opposition to the idea, and the men sent home 71,000 pounds sterling in less than six months.

She established with her own money a reading-room with tables for writing letters, and the men used it enthusiastically.

She imported four schoolmasters to give lectures, and the halls were filled to overflowing. All this was done despite opposition from officers who said, "The men are hopeless brutes. You cannot expect anything from them."

At night, she would often patrol the wards, carrying a dim lamp, to make sure that all was well, and no one was in need of help. She became famous as "the Lady with the Lamp."

In April 1856 the war was over, and by mid-July the hospital was emptied and her work in Crimea over. She returned to England a national hero, with a great welcome prepared for her; but she slipped into the country unnoticed and went to a convent that had supplied some of her nurses.

There, she spent the day in prayer before coming out to face the public and beginning to lobby Parliament for suitable legislation.

She wrote pamphlet after pamphlet, pointing out by pie charts, for example, that the major cause of deaths in the Army was not wounds caused by enemy action, but disease caused by lack of proper sanitation.

She is perhaps the first person to use pie charts and similar graphic devices to convey statistical information.

She obtained the formation of an Army Medical Staff Corps and a Sanitary Commission to oversee military health conditions.

Throughout these efforts, she relied on the help of Sidney Herbert, insisting that he must work hard and long to get the legislation she needed through Parliament. When he protested that she was asking too much, she would not listen. His health broke, and he died in August 1861.

Florence prayed God to raise him from the dead, explaining that she needed him for the job. When God failed to comply, her faith was badly shaken.

She wrote a book called, "[Suggestions for Thought: An Address to the Artisans of England](#)", in which she explained that God was less of a Person and more of a Cosmic Force than is generally supposed by Christians. (But note that she was working on this book before Sir Sidney died, and one cannot call it simply a response to his death.)

Advance copies were given to a few friends, such as John Stuart Mill, who praised it highly. However, it was never published since Florence kept revising it--arguably, because her beliefs on the nature of God were simply not internally consistent.

Eventually, it seems, God spoke to her again and said, "You are here to carry out my program. I am not here to carry out yours." She wrote in her diary, "I must remember that God is not my private secretary."

Before his death, Sir Sidney had gotten her involved in Indian affairs. She served on the Indian Sanitary Commission.

In May 1859, she decided that there were insufficient data available in England on conditions in the Indian Army, and she wrote to 200 military stations there, asking for copies of all regulations and all documents relating to the health and sanitary administration of the army. The reports that came back filled two vans. She read them all and summarized them for the Report of the Commission. Her conclusion was that the death toll from disease in the Indian Army was appallingly high (69 out of 1000 annually), and that this was largely due, not to the climate, but to lack of sanitation, and that preventive measures included sanitation not just for army posts but for neighboring villages and, in the long run, for all of India.

She was a friend of General Charles George Gordon, who captured the British imagination when he and his troops were besieged at Khartoum in the Sudan, and finally captured and killed.

After his death, Florence wrote to a friend that suffering, disappointment, and lack of success are the tribute which it is the soul's greatest privilege to present to God. In Gordon's death, she wrote, we see "the triumph of failure, the triumph of the Cross. With him, all is well."

She met the scholar Benjamin Jowett, who was translating Plato into English. They became fast friends, and she contributed to the translation.

She also began an anthology of mystical writings, called "[Notes from Devotional Authors of the Middle Ages, Collected, Chosen, and Freely Translated by Florence Nightingale](#)." It was her contention that mystical prayer is not just for monks and nuns, but should form a part of the every-day life of ordinary persons.

Under the strain of ceaseless overwork, her own health broke, and she was an invalid for the latter half of her life.

On Christmas Day when she was sixty-five, she wrote: "Today, O Lord, let me dedicate this crumbling old woman to thee. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. I was thy handmaid as a girl. Since then, I have backslid."

She wrote a manual called Notes for Nurses, and a set of instructions for the matron in charge of training nurses, emphasizing the importance for a nurse of a schedule of daily prayer.

A few years before her death, she was the first woman to receive the Order of Merit from the British government. She died at ninety, and, by her directions, her tombstone read simply, "F.N. 1820-1910".

Florence Nightingale died on 13 August 1910 and is commemorated on this day on the Lutheran Calendar. The Episcopal calendar commemorates Jeremy Taylor on 13 August, and accordingly has shifted the commemoration of Nightingale.