

## Morning Prayer

Friday, November 24



### Opening Statement

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.

### The 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 Old Testament Lesson**

*A reading from the First Book of Maccabees 4:36-59*

<sup>36</sup>Then Judas and his brothers said, See, our enemies are crushed; let us go up to cleanse the sanctuary and dedicate it. <sup>37</sup>So all the army assembled and went up to Mount Zion. <sup>38</sup>There they saw the sanctuary desolate, the altar profaned, and the gates burned. In the courts they saw bushes sprung up as in a thicket, or as on one of the mountains. They saw also the chambers of the priests in ruins. <sup>39</sup>Then they tore their clothes and mourned with great lamentation; they sprinkled themselves with ashes <sup>40</sup>and fell face down on the ground. And when the signal was given with the trumpets, they cried out to Heaven.

<sup>41</sup>Then Judas detailed men to fight against those in the citadel until he had cleansed the sanctuary. <sup>42</sup>He chose blameless priests devoted to the law, <sup>43</sup>and they cleansed the sanctuary and removed the defiled stones to an unclean place. <sup>44</sup>They deliberated what to do about the altar of burnt offering, which had been profaned. <sup>45</sup>And they thought it best to tear it down, so that it would not be a lasting shame to them that the Gentiles had defiled it. So they tore down the altar, <sup>46</sup>and stored the stones in a convenient place on the temple hill until a prophet should come to tell what to do with them. <sup>47</sup>Then they took unhewn stones, as the law directs, and built a new altar like the former one. <sup>48</sup>They also rebuilt the sanctuary and the interior of the temple, and consecrated the courts. <sup>49</sup>They made new holy vessels, and brought the lampstand, the altar of incense, and the table into the temple. <sup>50</sup>Then they offered incense on the altar and lit the lamps on the lampstand, and these gave light in the temple. <sup>51</sup>They placed the bread on the table and hung up the curtains. Thus, they finished all the work they had undertaken.

<sup>52</sup>Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chisleu, in the one hundred forty-eighth year, <sup>53</sup>they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built. <sup>54</sup>At the very season and on the

very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals.<sup>55</sup>All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed Heaven, who had prospered them.<sup>56</sup>So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and joyfully offered burnt offerings; they offered a sacrifice of well-being and a thanksgiving offering.<sup>57</sup>They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests, and fitted them with doors.<sup>58</sup>There was very great joy among the people, and the disgrace brought by the Gentiles was removed.<sup>59</sup>Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.  
The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### **Canticle 10** The Second Song of Isaiah

*Isaiah 55:6-11*

*Quaerite Dominum*

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 New Testament Lesson**

*A reading from the Revelation to John 22:6-13*

<sup>6</sup>And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." <sup>7</sup>"See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." <sup>8</sup>I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me; <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!" <sup>10</sup>And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. <sup>11</sup>Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." <sup>12</sup>"See, I am coming soon; my

reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Canticle 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**

*The Gospel according to Matthew 18:10-20*

<sup>10</sup>"Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

<sup>15</sup>"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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 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.*

### **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.*

### **For Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people  
is governed and sanctified:  
Receive our supplications and prayers

which we offer before you for  
all members of your holy Church,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may truly and devoutly serve you;  
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *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**

*Brice, Keri, Julia, Brice Jr., Brody & Brady Byham*

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.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21*

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### **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.

**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 renounce 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](#)