



Morning Prayer  
January 25, 2026  
Religious Life Sunday  
Order of Admissions, Third Order, Society of St Francis  
St. Francis Episcopal Parish & Community Center

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## Worship Leaders

Officiant: The Rev. Dr. Amy Slaughter, Rector

Preacher, Gospeller, Respondent: The Rev. Canon Dr. Kristofer Lindh-Payne, OSF

Officiant and Litanist for the Order of Admissions, Third Order, Society of St. Francis (TSSF) – The Rev. Linda Watkins, TSSF

Director of Church Media/Livestream: Ray Payne

*All are invited to speak the bolded portions either silently or aloud.*

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## *Officiant*

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

## *Officiant and People*

**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 you, forgive you all your sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all  
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in  
eternal life. Amen.

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

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

*Jubilate Psalm 100 in unison*

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.

PSALM 27: 1, 5-13

*St Helena Psalter*

*We will read a portion of Psalm 27 responsively by whole verse.*

1 God is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
God is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

- 5 **One thing have I asked of you, O God; one thing I seek:  
that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life,**
- 6 To behold your fair beauty, O God,  
and to seek you in your temple.
- 7 **For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe in your shelter;  
you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling and set me high upon a  
rock.**
- 8 Even now you lift up my head  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 **Therefore I will offer in your dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to you.**
- 10 Harken to my voice, O Most High, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 **You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."  
Your face, O God, will I seek.**
- 12 Hide not your face from me,  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 **You have been my helper; cast me not away;  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

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

### **A Reading From Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth.**

Now I appeal to you, brothers, sisters, siblings by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Here ends the Reading.

11 **The Third Song of Isaiah** *in unison Surge, illuminare*  
*Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

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 for ever. Amen.

**Matthew 4:12-23**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**Homily – The Rev. Canon Dr. Kristofer Lindh-Payne OSF**

**Admission to the Order**

**The Rev. Linda Watkins, TSSF, Officiant**

CANDIDATE: I, Amy Slaughter, desire to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by Profession in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, for the rest of my life, in company with my brothers and sisters.

II. THE QUESTION

OFFICIANT: Do you accept The Principles as the vision of the Community for the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis?

CANDIDATE: I do.

III. THE EXHORTATION

OFFICIANT: My sister, as a baptized Christian you have given your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, and are members of his Body. You must always seek to be conformed to

his image in the life you would embrace. You seek Christ's image in a community of Christians who live after the example of Saint Francis, the Poor Man of Assisi. Let your life in the spirit of Francis' holy poverty make our Blessed Lord known and loved everywhere, and promote the spirit of love and unity within the family of God. Continue to serve the Lord by prayer, study, and active work for his Dominion. And so observe your personal rule of life that you, like Francis, might be free to manifest humility, love and joy in the Lord. My sister, in the life you seek, be ready to endure hardness. Calling to mind how our Savior has said to us that if we would serve him, then we must follow him; that if we would come after him, we must deny self and take up our cross every day and follow him. Let us, therefore, pray to the Lord that you may have the grace to persevere in your chosen way.

#### IV. THE LITANY

The Rev. Linda Watkins, TSSF, Litanist

LITANIST: God the Father,

PEOPLE: **Have mercy on us.**

LITANIST: God the Son,

PEOPLE: **Have mercy on us.**

LITANIST: God the Holy Spirit,

PEOPLE: **Have mercy on us.**

LITANIST: Holy Trinity, One God,

PEOPLE: **Have mercy on us.**

LITANIST: We humbly pray that you will hear us, O Lord, and that you will send peace to the whole world which you have reconciled to yourself by the ministry of your Son, Jesus.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That you will guide all in civil authority to establish justice and maintain it for all people.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That you will heal the divisions of your visible Church, that all may be one.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That you will grant to our people forgiveness of sins, and give us grace to amend our lives.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That you will lead all members of your Church in their vocations and ministries to serve you in a true and Godly life.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That you will raise up able ministers for your Church that the Gospel may be known to all people.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That you will inspire all bishops, priests, and deacons with your love, that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness; that you will fill them with compassion and move them to care for your people.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That you will bless our brothers and sisters who seek to serve you in the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis, and will give them grace to persevere.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That you will bless their households and adorn them with all Christian virtue.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit you will sustain those you have called to the life of the Gospels in the way of Saint Francis, and encourage them to persevere to the end.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

*Intercessions may be offered here.*

*For all those on our prayer lists: those in immediate need, those with long-term needs or life circumstances, and those serving in the Armed Forces both home and abroad.*

*We celebrate with those who have birthdays and anniversaries this week.*

*We pray for those who have died, especially those who have died by violence, hunger, conflict around the world; those who are laid to rest in our Columbarium and our Memorial Garden.*

LITANIST: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That we, with the Blessed Virgin, Saints Francis and Clare, Saints Louis and Elizabeth, our patrons, and all the saints who have served you in the past, may be gathered into your unending Dominion.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

OFFICIANT: Lord, have mercy.

PEOPLE: **Christ, have mercy.**

OFFICIANT: Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray. Lord God, you are always pleased to show yourself to those who are childlike and humble of heart; help us to follow the example of blessed Father Francis, to look upon the wisdom of this world as foolishness, and to set our minds only on Jesus Christ, and him crucified, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all praise forever. **AMEN.**

V. UBI CARITAS *said in unison*

Ubi caritas et amor,

Where there is charity and love,

Deus ibi est.

God is there.

The love of Christ has gathered us together.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. And from a sincere heart let us love one another.

## VI. THE PLEDGE ADMISSION TO PROFESSION

OFFICIANT: Let the one who seeks admission to Profession come forward and make a vow and pledge.

CANDIDATE: I, Amy Slaughter, give myself to our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve him for the rest of my life in company with my brothers and sisters in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, according to the Principles of the Order, seeking to spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the spirit of love and harmony as the family of God, and to live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service after the example of Saint Francis.

*Officiant presents the Third Order Cross to the Candidate.*

OFFICIANT: Take this cross in token that you, Amy, are crucified with Christ yet live by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave himself for the life of the world. Wear it as a sign that you are a professed member of the Third Order.

CANDIDATE: I, Amy Slaughter, undertake by God's grace to keep for one year my personal rule of life which I now place on the altar.

OFFICIANT: May the Lord accept your offering and give you grace to persevere with joy.

## THE BLESSING

OFFICIANT To the prayers of the Saints I commend you. May our Blessed Lady pray for you. May Saint Francis, who bore the marks of the Crucified pray for you. May Saint Clare pray for you. May Saints Louis and Elizabeth, illustrious saints of the Third Order, pray for you. And I shall pronounce upon you the blessing, which blessed Francis gave to Brother Leo, his companion: The Lord bless you and keep you The Lord show his face to you and have mercy upon you; The Lord turn his countenance toward you and give you peace; My brothers and sisters, the Lord bless you.

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

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 People stand or kneel*

*Officiant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation, and all nations, under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

### **The Collect for the Day**

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our

life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### **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.*

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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