



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
THE FEAST OF JOHN OF THE CROSS



[Saint John of the Cross, OCD](#) (Spanish: *Juan de la Cruz*; [Latin](#): *Ioannes a Cruce*; born **Juan de Yepes y Álvarez**; 24 June 1542 – 14 December 1591) was a Spanish [Catholic priest](#), [mystic](#), and a [Carmelite friar](#) of [converso](#) origin. He is a major figure of the [Counter-Reformation](#) in Spain, and he is one of the thirty-seven [Doctors of the Church](#).

John of the Cross is known for his writings. He was mentored by and corresponded with the older Carmelite, [Teresa of Avila](#). Both his poetry and his studies on the development of the [soul](#) are considered the summit of [mystical](#) Spanish literature and among the greatest works of all [Spanish literature](#). He was [canonized](#) by [Pope Benedict XIII](#) in 1726. In 1926, he was declared a Doctor of the Church by [Pope Pius XI](#), and is commonly known as the "Mystical Doctor". **Saint John of the Cross, OCD** (Spanish: *Juan de la Cruz*; [Latin](#): *Ioannes a Cruce*; born **Juan de Yepes y Álvarez**; 24 June 1542 – 14 December 1591) [Continued Pg11](#)

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

Wednesday, 14 December 2022 9:30am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Greeting

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Gather #330 Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way of the Lord,
prepare the way of the Lord
and all people will see the salvation of our God (X3)

(Congregation sings three times through while the Advent wreath is lighted)

Gloria: (The Song of Mary—Magnificat, spoken)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

All: Judge eternal, throned in splendor, you gave Juan de la Cruz strength of purpose and mystical faith that sustained him even through the dark night of the soul: Shed your light on all who love you, in unity with Jesus Christ our Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of God *(please be seated for the lessons)*

First Reading : 1 Kings 19:1-9

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 121 *(Read in unison)*

**1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?**

**2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.**

**3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**

- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,**
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.**
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.**
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.**

Gospel Reading

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
John (16:12-22)

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

"A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me." Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying to us, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They said, "What does he mean by this 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'? Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

SERMON

The Nicene Creed *All say together*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Leader: *Show us your mercy, O Lord;*

All: **And grant us your salvation.**

Leader: *Clothe your ministers with righteousness;*

All: **Let your people sing with joy.**

Leader: *Give peace, O Lord, in all the world*

All: **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Leader: *Lord keep this nation under your care;*

All: **And guide us in the way of justice and truth**

Leader: *Let your way be known upon Earth;*

All: **Your saving health among all nations.**

Leader: *Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;*

All: **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Leader: *Create in us clean hearts, O God;*

All: **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Leader: *In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for **The Diocese of Ohio – The Episcopal Church***

*In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **St. Michael's, in Coolidge**
We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land
specially the Apache and Pascua Yaqui who call this area of Arizona their home.
Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints,*

All: **We commend these we pray for, ourselves, and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon: *Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*

(The people stand, sit, or kneel.)

All: **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.**

Absolution

“Presider: *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.*

Exchange of the Peace

Presider *May the peace of Christ be always with you*

All **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange signs of peace (peace sign, hugs, handshakes, fist bumps...)

Offertory

The Presider: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

Doxology #380 vs 3 (*Peoples' offerings are brought to the altar*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise him all creatures here below

Praise him, above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B BCP p.

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Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because of your goodness and the fullness of your love revealed in your abundant creation, in the sending of your Son and in the imparting of your Holy Spirit, our hearts are moved to thankful praise.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All: *Sanctus - Hymnal 1982 S130*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might (x2),
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest (x2).

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest (x2).

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts (+)

that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (+) by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**
And now as Jesus taught us, we pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)

Fraction Anthem: The Lord Is My Light

**The Lord is my light and my salvation,
the Lord is my light and my salvation,
the Lord is my light and my salvation
whom shall I fear**

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Please extend your hand to receive the bread and hold it until offered the cup/chalice to intinct it/dip it into the wine. If you prefer not to have the wine, you may consume the bread when you receive it. If prefer, you can cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine).

Birthday, Anniversary, Healing, Travel and Gratitude acknowledgement

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: Let us pray:

Presider and People

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living Members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Presider: May the simplicity, stillness, and serenity of this Advent season bring peace and fulfillment to your hearts and homes; and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal:

Presider: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Continued...

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Part of a [series](#) on

Life

Early life and education

He was born **Juan de Yepes y Álvarez** at [Fontiveros](#), [Old Castile](#) into a [converso](#) family (descendants of Jewish converts to Catholicism) in Fontiveros, near [Ávila](#), a town of around 2,000 people.^{[5][6][7]} His father, Gonzalo, was an accountant to richer relatives who were silk merchants. In 1529 Gonzalo married John's mother, Catalina, who was an orphan of a lower class; he was rejected by his family and forced to work with his wife as a weaver.^[8] John's father died in 1545, while John was still only around three years old.^[9] Two years later, John's older brother, Luis, died, probably as a result of malnourishment due to the poverty to which the family had been reduced. As a result, John's mother Catalina took John and his surviving brother Francisco, first to [Arévalo](#), in 1548 and then in 1551 to [Medina del Campo](#), where she was able to find work.^{[10][11]}

In Medina, John entered a school for 160^[12] poor children, mostly orphans, to receive a basic education, mainly in Christian doctrine. They were given some food, clothing and lodging. While studying there, he was chosen to serve as an altar boy at a nearby monastery of [Augustinian](#) nuns.^[10] Growing up, John worked at a hospital and studied the humanities at a [Jesuit](#) school from 1559 to 1563. The Society of Jesus was at that time a new organisation, having been founded only a few years earlier by the Spaniard St. [Ignatius of Loyola](#). In 1563 he entered the Carmelite Order, adopting the name **John of St. Matthias**.^{[13][10]}

The following year, in 1564 he made his First Profession as a Carmelite and travelled to [Salamanca](#) University, where he studied theology and philosophy.^[14] There he met [Fray Luis de León](#), who taught biblical studies ([Exegesis](#), [Hebrew](#) and [Aramaic](#)) at the university.

Joining the Reform of Teresa of Ávila

John was [ordained](#) as a priest in 1567. He subsequently thought about joining the strict [Carthusian](#) Order, which appealed to him because of its practice of solitary and silent contemplation. His journey from Salamanca to [Medina del Campo](#), probably in September 1567 became pivotal.^[15] In Medina he met the influential Carmelite nun, [Teresa of Ávila](#) (in religion, Teresa of Jesus). She was staying in Medina to found the second of her new convents.^[16] She immediately talked to him about her reformation projects for the Order: she was seeking to restore the purity of the Carmelite Order by reverting to the observance of its "Primitive Rule" of 1209, which had been relaxed by [Pope Eugene IV](#) in 1432.^[citation needed]

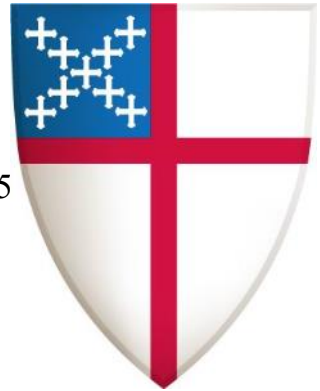
Under the Rule, much of the day and night were to be divided between the recitation of the [Liturgy of the Hours](#), study and devotional reading, the celebration of Mass and periods of solitude.

[Cont. online Wikipedia](#)

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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____
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