



VESPERS on the
Lesser Feast of
Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz 1695
(Sister Joan Agnes of the Cross)

2024 Apr 18

The Preparation

Presider

Juana Ines de Asbaje y Ramirez de Santillana was born 12 November 1648 near Mexico City. She reportedly learned to read and write by age three, do accounting by age five, compose religious poetry by age eight, teach Latin by age thirteen, and master Greek logic by adolescence. Denied university studies because she was a woman, she defended her knowledge and skill before a tribunal of theologians, philosophers, and justices at age seventeen before entering a monastery of Carmelite nuns.

The rigid Carmelite discipline did not allow her genius to bloom, so she moved to the more relaxed Order of St. Jerome in 1667, taking the religious name Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz (Sister Joan Agnes of the Cross, in English). Her blossoming literary career drew both admiration and ire from both the ecclesiastical and secular societies. In the midst of a very public intellectual career, she managed to balance religious devotion and life in community. She gave in to threats of official ecclesiastical censure, and stopped publishing her writing by 1693. She died in 1695 while serving her religious community during an outbreak of the plague.

Adapted from *“Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2018”*

The Preparation

Presider

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever.
Amen. Alleluia.

Act of Praise

Song of Simeon
Common Praise #266

Presider or Cantor

Lord, let your servant go in peace:
your promises have been fulfilled;
your saving power has been displayed
before the face of all the world.

My eyes have seen salvation's dawn:
the Sun of life ascending bright;
your peoples glory evermore,
the nations' everlasting light.

Psalm

Psalm 34: 11 - 18

Psalmist

Come children, and listen to me; *
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who among you loves life *
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

Keep your tongue from evil speaking *
and your lips from lying words.

Turn from evil and do good; *
seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, *
and his ears are open to their cry.

Psalm

Psalm 34: 11 - 18
(continued)

Psalm Prayer

Psalmist

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil; *
**To root out the remembrance of them
from the earth.**

The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them *
and delivers them from all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted *
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.

Hear us Lord, when we cry to you. Calm our bodies
and minds with the peace which passes all
understanding, and make us radiant with the
knowledge of your goodness, through Jesus Christ
our Saviour.

Amen.

Reading

Matthew 5: 17-20

Reader

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Response

*After a brief period of reflection,
the Reader says:*

Blessed are the meek, for they shall
inherit the earth.

Thanks be to God.

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgiving

Presider

Let us remember

- the unity of the Church;
- the peace of the world;
- the healing of the sick;
- the revelation of Christ to those from whom his glory is hidden;
- all who travel, and
- our own petitions, intercessions and thanksgivings

Versicles & Responses

Presider

Lord, open a path for your Word
to declare the mystery of Christ.

Turn now, O God of hosts;
behold and tend the vine you have planted.

May your people rejoice and sing,
and your ministers be clothed with salvation.

May they stand and feed your flock
in the strength of your name.

Keep from trouble all those who trust in you
and forget not the poor forever.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon us,
as we have put our hope in you.

The Collect

Presider

Almighty God, Source of all knowledge, we give you thanks for the witness of your servant Juana Ines de la Cruz in her fierce passion for learning and creativity. Teach us to be faithful stewards of our minds and hearts, so that, following her example, we might forever proclaim the riches of your unending love through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

Believing in the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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,
and 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**

The Sending Forth

Deacon (or Presider)

Let us go forth into the night, rejoicing
in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Presider

May the Lord of peace give us peace
in all ways and at all times..

Amen. Alleluia!