

*Contemplative Noonday Prayer  
& Scriptural Reflection* May 27, 2026

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St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Inverness, CA

**St. Augustine Archbishop of Canterbury**



**Died 604-607**

Mother Teri: O God, make speed to save us.

**Assistant:** O Lord, make haste to help us.

+ Glory to You O Eternal Source,  
Divine Savior, and Holy Spirit:

*As it was in the beginning is now  
and will be forever. Amen*

**Assistant: The Collect**

O Lord our God, who by your Son Jesus Christ called your servant Augustine to preach the Gospel to the English people: We pray that all whom you call and send may do your will, bide your time, and see your glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

--The Episcopal Church Lectionary

## **Psalm 104:24-34**

(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

*Please join the assistant by repeating lines in **bold italics** at home on mute.*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

*In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.*

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.

*There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.*

These all look to you

to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;

***when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.***

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

***when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.***

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

***and you renew the face of the ground.***

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;

***may the Lord rejoice in his works—***

who looks on the earth and it trembles,

who touches the mountains and they smoke.

***I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;***

***I will sing praise to my God while I have being.***

May my meditation be pleasing to him,

for I rejoice in the Lord.

***Assistant: As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen***



Mother Teri:

***The Holy Gospel according to John 7:37-39***

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

***On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”’ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.***

Mother Teri: **Hear what the Spirit is saying.**

***Assistant: Thanks be to God.***

**Celtic Contemplation: 15 minutes**

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

-St. Augustine of Canterbury



*Please follow along and chant the Kyrie with us while on mute.  
We will chant 3x through.*

*Assistant / **Mother Teri***

*Kyrie Eleison (**Kyrie Eleison**)  
Christe Eleison (**Christe Eleison**)  
Kyrie (**Kyrie**), Christe (**Christe**)  
Eleison (**Eleison**)*

*Mother Teri: Please join now in praying as Jesus taught...*

*(ALL)           **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. 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 for ever. Amen.***

*Mother Teri:           Lord, hear our prayer;  
Assistant:           **And let our cry come to you.***

*Let us pray, using words from the *Ita Compline*<sup>1</sup>*

*Search me, O God, and know my heart.  
**Test me and know my thoughts.***

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<sup>1</sup> *excerpted from the Ita Compline, Northumbria Community.*

Keep Your people, Lord, in the arms of Your embrace.  
***Shelter them under Your wings.***

Mother Teri: For whom and what else do we pray

***Please offer your intercessions here, aloud or silently.***

*Prayers given aloud are followed with:*

Mother Teri: We pray to the Lord

***Assistant: Lord, hear our prayer***

*Continuing after personal intercessions with...*

Be their light in darkness.

***Be their hope in distress.***

***Be their calm in anxiety.***

Be strength in their weakness.

***Be their comfort in pain.***

***Be their song in the night.***

Let us bless the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

*Please remain for discussion  
on today's topic and scriptural reading*

# St. Augustine Archbishop of Canterbury



**Died 604-607**

Saint Augustine was a Roman, the prior of Saint Andrew's monastery on the Coelian Hill in Rome. In 596, Pope Saint Gregory the Great sent him with 30-40 of his monks to evangelize the English. By the time they had reached southern France, they were frightened by stories of the brutality of the Anglo-Saxons and the dangerous nature of the Channel crossing and his company wanted to return to civilisation.

Augustine sought help from the pope, who sent encouragement. Gregory said, "It is better never to undertake any high enterprise than to abandon it once it has started." He added, "The greater the labour, the greater will be the glory of your eternal reward." Gregory also persuaded some French priests to aid the mission and the group landed near Ebbsfleet near Ramsgate on the isle of Thanet in 597. They were welcomed by King Ethelbert of Kent, then the most sophisticated of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. Ethelbert's wife Bertha was the

daughter of the king of Paris and already a Christian, which made it much easier for the missionaries to gain a foothold in the land. The king himself was baptized within a year of their arrival. Augustine would later help Ethelbert to write the earliest Anglo-Saxon laws to survive.

Augustine went to France to be consecrated bishop of the English by Saint Virgilius, Metropolitan of Arles, and upon his return to England was so successful in making converts that he sent to Rome for more assistance. Among those who responded were Saint Mellitus, Saint Justus, and Saint Paulinus, who brought with them sacred vessels, altar cloths, and books.

Augustine rebuilt a church and laid the foundation for what would become the monastery of Christ Church. On land given to him by the king, he built a Benedictine monastery at Canterbury, called SS. Peter and Paul (later called Saint Augustine's).

He was unable to convince the bishops in Wales and Cornwall to abandon their Celtic rites and adopt the disciplines and practices of Rome. He invited leading ecclesiastics to meet him at Wessex, known as "Augustine's Oak." He urged them to follow Roman rites and to cooperate with him in the evangelization of England, but fidelity to local customs and resentment against their conquerors made them refuse.

In 603, he held a second conference with the leaders of the already existing Christian congregations in Britain, but failed to reach an accommodation with them, largely due to his own tactlessness, and his insistence (contrary, it may be noted, to Pope Gregory's explicit advice) on imposing Roman customs on a church long accustomed to its own traditions of worship. It is said that the English bishops, before going to meet Augustine, consulted a hermit with a reputation for wisdom and holiness, asking him, "Shall we accept this man as our leader, or not?" The hermit replied, "If, at your meeting, he rises to greet you, then accept him, but if he remains seated, then he is arrogant and unfit to lead, and you ought to reject him." Augustine, alas, remained seated. It took another sixty years before the breach was healed.

He was never able to extend his authority to the existing Christians in Wales and southwest England (Dumnonia). These Britons were suspicious and wary, Augustine was insufficiently conciliatory, and the British bishop refused to recognise him as their archbishop.

He spent the rest of his life spreading the word, and he established sees at London and Rochester. He was the first archbishop of Canterbury and was called the "Apostle of the English" (as opposed to Roman Britain), though his comparatively short mission was perforce confined to a limited area. That he was a very conscientious missionary is clear from the pages of Bede, who gives what purports to be the text of Pope Gregory's answers to Augustine's requests for direction on various matters arising out of his mission.

He adapted a gradual course of conversion outlined for him by Pope Saint Gregory. The Pope has asked him not to destroy pagan temples and allowed that innocent pagan rites could be incorporated into Christian feasts, operating under the belief that "He who would climb to a lofty height must go by steps, not leaps."

Augustine's patience became well known, as is illustrated by an episode that occurred in Dorsetshire, when a town of seafaring people attached fishtails to the backs of the Italians' robes. He was buried in the unfinished church of the monastery that would one day bear his name ([Attwater](#), [Benedictines](#), [bentley](#), [Deanesly](#), [Delaney](#), [White](#)).

In art, Saint Augustine is portrayed as a bishop baptizing the king of Kent ([Roeder](#), in the black habit of the order, with a pen or book (one of his own works), or obtaining by prayer a fountain for baptizing ([White](#)).