

# Liturgy Alive of ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest and Doctor

**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest and Doctor**

Memorial

*December 14*

## Introduction

The religious name, which Juan Yepes took as a Carmelite, was a very fitting one: Juan de la Cruz. Once St. Teresa of Jesus had drawn him into the reform of the Carmelite order, trials beset him from all sides, especially from his own confreres, who misunderstood his intentions and even imprisoned him. Yet, his suffering served only to deepen his interior life to bring him closer to God in a mystical union. He is one of the greatest mystics of the Church.

May we learn from this "pilgrim of the absolute who thirsted for God," as is said of him, to live in close union with God.

## Opening Prayer

Lord, our God,  
how difficult it is to accept change,  
even when it is for our good and that of others.  
As we honor St. John of the Cross, we ask you  
that in the dark night of trials, and suffering  
we too, may keep searching  
for your light and love  
in trust and peace of mind,  
for you are all that matters.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,  
in this bread and wine, we express  
that we keep searching for you.  
Deepen and purify our faith and love,  
that we may come to know you better.  
And confirm our trust  
that nothing can harm us  
and that we are always in your hands.

Grant us this through Christ, our Lord.

## Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,  
in the strength of the body and blood  
of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
we express our trust in you.  
Help us to remain always pilgrims and seekers  
who try to live more deeply  
the truth and beauty and life  
of the Gospel of your Son,  
that it may be good news to us,  
our joy and what we live for.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.