



**St Mary Magdalene**

# **CHORAL EVENSONG**

*1 June 2025 – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)*

*Please stand as the choir and minister enter*

*Gibbons, Almighty and everlasting God*

**Introit**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

### **Office Hymn**

**Love of the Father, Love of God the Son,  
from whom all came, in whom was all begun;  
who formest heavenly beauty out of strife,  
creation's whole desire and breath of life:**

**2 Spirit all-holy, thou supreme in might,  
thou dost give peace, thy presence maketh right;  
thou with thy favour all things dost enfold,  
with thine all-kindness free from harm wilt hold.**

**3 Hope of all comfort, splendour of all aid,  
that dost not fail nor leave the heart afraid:  
to all that cry thou dost all help accord,  
the angels' armour, and the saints' reward.**

**4 Purest and highest, wisest and most just,  
there is no truth save only in thy trust;  
thou dost the mind from earthly dreams recall,  
and bring, through Christ, to him for whom are all.**

**5 Eternal glory, all men thee adore,  
who art and shalt be worshipped evermore:  
us whom thou madest, comfort with thy might,  
and lead us to enjoy thy heavenly light.**

Robert Bridges 1844-1930, based on 12th century Latin Hymn, NEH409

## Prayers of Penitence

*Please sit or kneel*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with a humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Our Father, **which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Responses

*Ayleward*

○ Lord, open thou our lips *and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

○ God, make speed to save us. *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

*Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*  
Praise ye the Lord. *The Lord's name be praised.*

*Please be seated*

## Psalmody

*Psalm 68: 1-10*

LET God arise, and let his enemies be scattered let them also that hate him flee  
before him.

2 Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away : and like as wax melteth  
at the fire, so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God : let them also be merry and joyful.

4 O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name : magnify him that rideth upon the  
heavens, as it were upon an horse; praise him in his Name jah, and rejoice before him.

5 He is a father of the fatherless, and defendeth the cause of the widows : even God  
in his holy habitation.

6 He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house, and bringeth the  
prisoners out of captivity : but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.

7 O God, when thou wentest forth before the people : when thou wentest through  
the wilderness;

8 The earth shook, and the heavens dropped at the presence of God : even as Sinai  
also was moved at the presence of God, who is the God of Israel.

9 Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance : and refreshedst it  
when it was weary.

10 Thy congregation shall dwell therein : for thou, O God, hast of thy goodness  
prepared for the poor.

*Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Isaiah 44:1-8*

Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel. Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

*Please stand*

## **Magnificat**

*Gibbons Second Service*

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. *Luke 1.46-55*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## **Second Reading**

*Ephesians 4:7-16*

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

*Please stand*

## **Nunc Dimittis**

*Gibbons Second Service*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Luke 2.29-32*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Reponses**

The Lord be with you. *And with thy spirit.* Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us. *And grant us thy salvation.*

O Lord, save the King. *And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Endue thy ministers with righteousness. *And make thy chosen people joyful.*

O Lord, save thy people. *And bless thine inheritance.*

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.*

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

## **The Collect of the Day**

O GOD the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## **Collect for Peace**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

## **The Collect for Aid against all Perils**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Anthem**

*Gibbons, If ye be risen again with Christ*

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

*When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

## **Sermon**

**Prayers** *Ending with:*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **Hymn**

**I My Lord, my Life, my Love,  
To thee, to thee I call;  
I cannot live if thou remove:  
Thou art my joy, my all.**

**2 My only sun to cheer  
The darkness where I dwell;  
The best and only true delight  
My song hath found to tell.**

**3 To thee in very heaven  
The angels owe their bliss;  
To thee the saints, whom thou hast called  
Where perfect pleasure is.**

**4 And how shall man, thy child,  
Without thee happy be,  
Who hath no comfort nor desire  
In all the world but thee?**

**5 Return my Love, my Life,  
Thy grace hath won my heart;  
If thou forgive, if thou return,  
I will no more depart.**

Robert Bridges (1844-1930) based on verses by Isaac Watts 1674-1748  
NEH411

## **Benediction**

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, be with you this night and always. **Amen.**

## **Voluntary**

*Gibbons A Fancy for Double Organ*