



St Mary Magdalene

CHORAL EVENSONG

15 March 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

Please stand as the choir and minister enter.

Welcome and Introduction

Office Hymn

**1 Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground.**

**2 For thou, within no walls confined,
dost dwell with those of humble mind;
such ever bring thee where they come,
and, going, take thee to their home.**

**3 Great Shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
here, to our waiting hearts, proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving Name.**

**4 Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care;
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.**

**5 Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear;
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own!**

William Cowper 1731-1800 NEH 390

Prayers of Penitence

Please be seated

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.

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; 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

Philip Radcliffe 1905-1986

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

O 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.

Psalmody

Psalm 31:1-16

- IN thee, O LORD, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion; * deliver me in thy righteousness.
- 2 Bow down thine ear to me; * make haste to deliver me.
- 3 And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence, *
that thou mayest save me.
- 4 For thou art my strong rock, and my castle: *
be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy Name's sake.
- 5 Draw me out of the net that they have laid privily for me; *
for thou art my strength.
- 6 Into thy hands I commend my spirit; *
for thou hast redeemed me, O LORD, thou God of truth.
- 7 I have hated them that hold of lying vanities, *
and my trust hath been in the LORD.
- 8 I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy; * for thou hast considered my trouble,
and hast known my soul in adversities.
- 9 Thou hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; *
but hast set my feet in a large room.
- 10 Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble, *
and mine eye is consumed for very heaviness; yea, my soul and my body.
- 11 For my life is waxen old with heaviness, * and my years with mourning.
- 12 My strength faileth me, because of mine iniquity, * and my bones are consumed.

- 13 I became a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially
among my neighbours; * and they of mine acquaintance were afraid of me;
and they that did see me without, conveyed themselves from me.
- 14 I am clean forgotten as a dead man out of mind; *
I am become like a broken vessel.
- 15 For I have heard the blasphemy of the multitude, and fear is on every side; *
while they conspire together against me, and take their counsel to take away
my life.
- 16 But my hope hath been in thee, O LORD; * I have said, Thou art my God.

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

Micah 7

Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits,
as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired
the firstripe fruit. The good man is perished out of the earth: and there
is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man
his brother with a net. That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the
prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he
uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up. The best of them is as a
brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy
watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity. Trust ye
not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth
from her that lieth in thy bosom. For the son dishonoureth the father, the
daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother
in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. Therefore I will look
unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.
Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in
darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of
the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and
execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold
his righteousness. Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall
cover her which said unto me, Where is the Lord thy God? mine eyes shall
behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets. In the
day that thy walls are to be built, in that day shall the decree be far removed.

In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain. Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings. Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old. According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things. The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf. They shall lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: they shall be afraid of the Lord our God, and shall fear because of thee. Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Magnificat

Evening Service in G – C.V. Stanford 1852-1924

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*

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

Second Reading

James 5

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Nunc Dimittis

Stanford in G

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.

Please stand

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

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

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **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

Mendelssohn I waited for the Lord

*I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me,
he heard my complaint.*

O blest are they that hope and trust in him.

Text: Psalm 40:1

Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847

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.**

Hymn

**Lead, kindly Light, amid th'encircling gloom,
lead Thou me on!**

**The night is dark, and I am far from home;
lead Thou me on!**

**Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
the distant scene; one step enough for me.**

**2 I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
shouldst lead me on;**

**I loved to choose and see my path; but now
lead Thou me on!**

**I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
pride ruled my will: remember not past years!**

**3 So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still
will lead me on.**

**O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
the night is gone,
and with the morn those angel faces smile,
which I have loved long since, and lost awhile!**

John Henry Newman 1801-1890 CP 495

Benediction

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Voluntary

Psalm Prelude Set I No.1 'Lo, the poor crieth' Herbert Howells 1892-1983