



THE MISSION OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE



THE ORDER FOR EVENSONG FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 2025
(Year 1)

**According to pp. 20-24 the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)
and the Use of the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada (ACCC)
(together with traditional devotions and ceremonial directions)**

THE VERSICLES & RESPONSES (pp. 20-21):

Minister. ✠ O Lord, open thou our lips;

People. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Minister. ✠ O God, make speed to save us;

People. O Lord, make haste to help us.

HERE, ALL STAND:

Minister. GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

People. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Minister. Praise ye the Lord;

People. The Lord's Name be praised.

HERE, ALL SIT:

THE PSALM OF THE DAY [Psalm 55. (*Exaudi, Deus.*) pp. 397-399]:

Minister. 1 HEAR my prayer, O God, /

ALL. and hide not thyself from my petition.

2 Take heed unto me, and hear me, / how I mourn in my prayer, and am vexed.

3 The enemy crieth so, and the ungodly cometh on so fast; / for they are minded to do me some mischief; so maliciously are they set against me.

4 My heart is disquieted within me, / and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.

5 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, / and an horrible dread hath overwhelmed me.

6 And I said, 'O that I had wings like a dove! / for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

7 Lo, then would I get me away far off, / and abide in the wilderness.

8 I would make haste to find me a shelter / from the stormy wind and tempest.'

9 DESTROY their tongues, O Lord, and divide them; / for I have spied violence and strife in the city.

10 Day and night they go about it, upon the walls thereof: / iniquity also and mischief are in the midst of it.

11 Wickedness is therein: / oppression and guile go not out of her streets.

12 For it is not an open enemy, that hath done me this dishonour; / for then I could have borne it;

13 Neither was it mine adversary, that did magnify himself against me; / for then I would have hid myself from him.

14 But it was even thou, my companion, / my guide, and mine own familiar friend.

15 We took sweet counsel together, / and walked in the house of God as friends.
16 As for me, I will call upon God, / and the LORD shall save me.
17 In the evening, and morning, and at noon-day will I pray, and that instantly; / and he shall hear my voice.
18 He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me; / for there were many that strove with me.
19 Yea, even God, that endureth for ever, shall hear me, and bring them down; / for they will not turn, nor fear God.
20 He laid his hands upon such as were at peace with him, / and he brake his covenant.
21 His speech was smoother than butter, yet war was in his heart; / his words were softer than oil, yet be they very swords.
22 O cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall uphold thee, / and shall not suffer the righteous to be moved for ever.
23 But as for them, thou, O God, shalt bring them down / into the pit of destruction.
24 The bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; / but my trust shall be in thee.
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 FIRST LESSON & COMMENTARY (Genesis 24:1-28):

Minister. The First Lesson is written in the Book of Genesis, the twenty-fourth chapter, beginning at the first verse.

24 ¹ Abraham was now very old, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. ² He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. ³ I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, ⁴ but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

⁵ The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?"

⁶ "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. ⁷ "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land' – he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. ⁸ If the woman is unwilling to come back

with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.”⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

¹⁰ Then the servant left, taking with him ten of his master’s camels loaded with all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. ¹¹ He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.

¹² Then he prayed, “LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. ¹³ See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ May it be that when I say to a young woman, ‘Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too’ – let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.”

¹⁵ Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milkah, who was the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor. ¹⁶ The woman was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

¹⁷ The servant hurried to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water from your jar.”

¹⁸ “Drink, my lord,” she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

¹⁹ After she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too, until they have had enough to drink.” ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. ²¹ Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. ²³ Then he asked, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

²⁴ She answered him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milkah bore to Nahor.” ²⁵ And she added, “We have plenty of straw

and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night.”

²⁶ Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD, ²⁷ saying, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s relatives.”

²⁸ The young woman ran and told her mother’s household about these things.

Minister. Here endeth the First Lesson.

Minister. Today we read about Isaac, the Divinely-promised son of aged Abraham’s and Sarah’s bodies. In this lesson, we see that Abraham is caught in a bind; he wishes to find a wife for Isaac from among his own people (that is, the Chaldeans), yet he knows that Isaac cannot forsake the land promised to him by God. Knowing that the dilemma may only be solved by Divine providence, Abraham does not force his servant to take an impossible oath. Rather, that servant, having prayed faithfully for Divine aid, receives it, and humbly returns thanks for the benefit. So we, too, should pray, and always give thanks for the answer which we will most certainly receive.

HERE, ALL STAND:

MAGNIFICAT (St. Luke 1:46-55; pp. 21-22):

Minister. ✠ MY soul doth magnify the Lord, /

ALL. 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 showed 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.

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.

HERE, ALL SIT:

THE SECOND LESSON & COMMENTARY (St. Mark 14:53-end):

Minister. The Second Lesson is written in the Gospel According to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter, beginning at the fifty-third verse.

14 ⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:

⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'"

⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶² "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴ "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.

⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those

standing around, "This fellow is one of them." ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Minister. Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Minister. In his Gospel, St. Mark regularly depicts Jesus as being careful to conceal His true identity. Yet, in this lesson, Jesus openly declares it, and in a way that is calculated to sound blasphemous (or sacrilegious) to Jewish ears [since "I Am" is the name of God Himself, (Exodus 3:14)]. It is as if Jesus knew that an open declaration of His identity would not promote faith, but proud and envious disbelief instead. Thus, such a declaration had to wait until the most appropriate time - when Jesus was condemned to death by His own people. At that moment, even stalwart Peter left Jesus, though Peter's sin of desertion was subsequently washed away by his penitent tears.

HERE, ALL STAND:

NUNC DIMITTIS (St. Luke 2:29-32; p. 22):

Minister. ✠ LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, /
ALL. 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.

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.

HERE, ALL REMAIN STANDING AND FACE THE CROSS:

THE APOSTLES' CREED (p. 22):

Minister. I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty,

ALL. 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.

THE LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER & SUFFRAGES (p. 23):

Minister. The Lord be with you;

People. And with thy spirit.

Minister. Let us pray.

HERE, ALL KNEEL:

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ALL. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister. OUR Father who art in heaven,

ALL. Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on 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.

HERE, ONLY THE MINISTER STANDS:

Minister. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

People. And grant us thy salvation.

Minister. O Lord, save the King;

People. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

People. And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister. O Lord, save thy people;

People. And bless thine inheritance.

Minister. Give peace in our time, O Lord;

People. And evermore mightily defend us.

Minister. O God, make clean our hearts within us;

People. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

HERE, ALL KNEEL:

THE COLLECTS OF THE DAY (pp. 145, 138-139):

Minister. WE beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *People. Amen.*

Minister. ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *People. Amen.*

THE SECOND COLLECT, FOR PEACE (pp. 23-24):

Minister. 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 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. *People. Amen.*

THE THIRD COLLECT, FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS (p. 24):

Minister. 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. *People. Amen.*

THE TRADITIONAL DISMISSAL:

Minister. O Lord, hear our prayer.

People. And let our cry come unto thee.

Minister. Let us bless the Lord.

People. Thanks be to God.

Minister. ✠ May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.