Good Evening: Welcome to Evening Prayer at Church of the Nativity. You may follow along with the order of service using the Book of Common Prayer, beginning on Page 115, by visiting the Book of Common Prayer online at bcponline.org, or by following the link to the complete service bulletin, listed above this video.

Let us begin our time together in silence.

**Opening Sentence**

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” *John 8:12*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Confession of Sin**

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant*  O God, make speed to save us.
*People*    O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

O Gracious Light

Robin Rhaney, Cantor

O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ
In you the Father’s glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he,
And blest are you, his holy son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,
The lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit God
Who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise,
O Son of God, life giving Lord;
Wherefore you are through all the earth,
And in the highest heaven adored.

Psalm 42:1-7

As the deer longs for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long they say to me,
"Where now is your God?"

I pour out my soul when I think on these things:
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,
among those who keep holy-day.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
The First Lesson

Judith 9:1, 11-14

A Reading from Judith 9:1, 11-14

Judith prostrated herself, put ashes on her head, and uncovered the sackcloth she was wearing. At the very time when the evening incense was being offered in the house of God in Jerusalem, Judith cried out to the Lord with a loud voice, and said, “Your strength does not depend on numbers, nor your might on the powerful. But you are the God of the lowly, helper of the oppressed, upholder of the weak, protector of the forsaken, savior of those without hope. Please, please, God of my father, God of the heritage of Israel, Lord of heaven and earth, Creator of the waters, King of all your creation, hear my prayer! Make my deceitful words bring wound and bruise on those who have planned cruel things against your covenant, and against your sacred house, and against Mount Zion, and against the house your children possess. Let your whole nation and every tribe know and understand that you are God, the God of all power and might, and that there is no other who protects the people of Israel but you alone!”

Here ends the lesson.

Tell Out My Soul

GREATOREX

Robin Rhaney, Cantor

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name– the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might,
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted up.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:14-18

A Reading from 2 Corinthians 5:14-18

The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Here ends the lesson.

**Lord God, You Now Have Set Your Servant Free**

Robin Rhaney, Cantor

> Lord God, you now have set your servant free
> To go in peace as promised in your word;
> My eyes have seen the Savior, Christ the Lord
> Prepared by you for all the world to see,
> To shine on nations trapped in darkest night,
> The glory of your people, and their light.

The Third Lesson

**John 20:11-18**

A Reading from the Gospel of John.

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Here ends the lesson.

**St. Mary Magdalene**

Mary of Magdala near Capernaum was one of several women who followed Jesus and ministered to him in Galilee. The Gospel according to Luke records that Jesus “went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out…” (Luke 8:1–2). The Gospels tell us that Mary was healed by Jesus, followed him, and was one of those who stood near his cross at Calvary.

It is clear that Mary Magdalene’s life was radically changed by Jesus’ healing. Her ministry of service and steadfast companionship, even as a witness to the crucifixion, has, through the centuries, been an example of the faithful ministry of women to Christ. All four Gospels name Mary as one of the women who went to the tomb to mourn and to care for Jesus’ body. Her weeping for the loss of her Lord strikes a common chord with the grief of all others over the death of loved ones. Jesus’ tender response to her grief—meeting her in the garden, revealing himself to her by calling her name—makes her the first witness to the risen Lord. She is given the command, “Go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God
and your God” (John 20:17). As the first messenger of the resurrection, she tells the disciples, “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18).

In the tradition of the Eastern Church, Mary is considered “equal to the apostles” and “apostle to the apostles”; and she is held in veneration as the patron saint of the great cluster of monasteries on Mount Athos.

**The Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the **Father almighty**, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
- He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
- He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
- He descended to the dead.
- On the third day he rose again.
- He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
- He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Prayers**

*Officiant*  The Lord be with you.
*People*  And also with you.
*Officiant*  Let us pray.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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 forever. Amen.

Suffrages (B)

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat
of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of Mary Magdalene and all your
saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and of mind, and called her
to be a witness of his resurrection: Mercifully grant that by your grace we may be healed from all our
infirmities and know you in the power of his unending life; Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who
with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of
the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask you for your protection
through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again
for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over
those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the
afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. Amen.

Prayers of the People

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for our Bishops, especially Michael, Sam, and
Anne; for this gathering; for all ministers and people; and in the Anglican and Dicosean cycles of prayer,
the Episcopal Church in the Philippines; St. Thomas’, Reidsville; andnd Chapel of the Good Shepherd,
Ridgeway. Pray for the church.

I ask your prayers for peace, for goodwill among nations, for the leaders of all nations, and for the safety and
well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.
I ask your prayers for the sick in our community, especially Bill, Carol, Charlotte, Don, Don, Frank, Jack, Jenny, Karen, Marion, Mary, Mary, Maxine, Michael, Richard, Richard, Ron, Sharon, and those we name now. Pray for healing and relief.

I ask your prayers for our friends, family, and neighbors, especially Ali, Anna, AnneMarie, Anna Rose, Audrey, Bettie, Bill, Britne, Carlie, Cathy, Charlie, Claudette, Dan, Dave, Diane, Dick, and Don. We lift up Eddie, Emma, Fay, Gary, Gemma, George, Harry, Helen, Henry, Jake, James, Jason, Jaylen, Jeanette, Joe, JR, Julia, Justin, Karen, and Kathleen. We ask for healing for Kathryn, Keith, Kelli, Kelvin, Kenny, Licia, Mark, Mary, Matt, Megan, Michelle, Mimi, Nancy, Nick, and Patricia. We pray for Patricia, Rodney, Roseanne, Roy, Roy, Sally, Sandy, Sara, Sean, Shannon, Shirley, Spencer, Stephanie, Stephani, Steve, Vivian, Von, William, Zuzu and those we name now. Pray for comfort from affliction.

I ask your prayers for all expecting a child, especially Robert and Brianna. We give thanks for the birth of Oliver David Short, son of Jenny and Matt, and grandson of Allison Martin. Pray for new life.

I ask your prayers for all healthcare workers, especially those in the Nativity community. Pray for our healers.

I ask your prayer for all who have died from COVID-19. I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially Cynthia Bernart, Marjorie Ann Williams, and those we name now. Pray for the dead.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.
A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Homily

Karen McGugan

May the Lord be revealed to us in subversive and unassuming ways. May we be given eyes to see the miracles and resurrections that happen every day. May our ears be unclogged to hear the Lord. May we be shown how to get rid of the clutter of our lives and make room for you.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20,21

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

We thank the following people for their contribution to this service:

Officiant: Alicia Lester-Bodford
Homily: Karen McGugan
Readers:
Cantor: Robin Rhaney
Video Editors: Jeremy Clos and Jason Pace

Clergy and Staff
The Rev. Stephanie L. Allen, Rector
The Rev. Dr. David Lynch, Deacon
Kathryn Buckley, Children and Youth Minister
Jason Pace, Choir Master and Organist
Megan Miller, Parish Coordinator