

Morning Worship for Trinity 13; Patronal Festival

Preparation

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;
ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name.

The whole earth is full of his glory.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Opening Prayer

Holy God,

faithful and unchanging:

**enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,**

that we may truly worship you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Cast your burden upon the Lord:

And he will sustain you.

Create in us clean hearts O God:

And renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence:

And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Give us the joy of your saving help:

And sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

Blessed be the Lord day by day:

The God of our salvation who bears our burdens.

We confess our sins.

God the Father forgives us in Christ

and heals us by the Holy Spirit.

Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice,

and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

(cf Ephesians 4.30,32)

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

Lord our God,

in our sin we have avoided your call.

**Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.**

Have mercy on us;

deliver us from judgement;

bind up our wounds and revive us;

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May almighty God,

who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,

bring you his pardon and peace,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

Praise

O Lord, open our lips:

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the Lord:

All praise to his name.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The word of God

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes or what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God** (Romans 8:18-30)

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ**
(Luke 1:46-55)

A reflection by Gordon Gray

On our Patronal Festival it's traditional for the Gospel reading to be the extract from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 1 that we know as the Magnificat; a word derived from the 3rd person singular of the Latin word '*magificare*' - to magnify, as in '*Magnificat anima mea Dominum*' - 'my soul doth magnify the Lord'. Older members of the congregation will be familiar with the words of the Magnificat - an ancient Canticle sung at Vespers or Evensong. But attendance at Evensong declined in popularity in the early 1970s when those Sunday evening services came under competition from the ITV drama '*Upstairs Downstairs*'. As a result very few churches today celebrate a weekly, let alone daily, service of Evensong and, unless you find a church that does celebrate Evensong, the Magnificat is only heard on the third Sunday of Advent and, at the Patronal Festival of those churches whose patron is St Mary, and we are all the losers for that.

For the Magnificat is a radical protest song that has its roots in the sort of song that the enslaved Israelites might have sung in Egypt. The kind of song you might have heard on the lips of the exiled Judeans in Babylon. The kind of song that has been sung by countless people of faith through the ages in resistance, in defiance of empires, slave traders, terrorists, invaders, and the like. The kind of song that may be used today in the campaign for Black Lives Matter.

Hear, feel, enjoy Mary's cry of resistance:

The Lord has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

Mary's hymn sounded the initial, clear, trumpet call that the event of the Christ's coming was to be a world-transforming, universe-shaking event. It announces, "Christ has come to challenge the structures of sin, death, the devil, and oppression. Christ has come in the strength of the Lord to do what the Lord has always done: lift up the lowly, free the enslaved, feed the hungry, give justice to the widow, the orphan, and the stranger."

Mary's song of resistance was not completely new. It was a song in harmony with those of oppressed people throughout history. Just three brief examples.

From the book of Exodus, the once-enslaved Moses and Miriam sang this song of resistance when God delivered the oppressed from the house of bondage in Egypt:

The Lord has trumped gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

From the book of Samuel Hannah sang of resistance and deliverance:

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.

And one more from Psalm 146:

The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers; upholds the orphan and the widow.

Throughout the ages, God's people have faced oppression. And in the face of that oppression, God's people have sung God's songs of resistance.

But God's people too have been oppressors. We have enslaved others. We have stolen from, oppressed, and slain others. And when we have done so, the oppressed, the enslaved, the persecuted have sung God's songs of resistance against us.

When we hear Mary's Song, we usually fail to realize how radical and revolutionary the song really is. When we hear the words of the Magnificat sung, they sound beautiful, soft, lovely. We fail to hear what is actually being sung or said as we are mesmerized by the music or tranquilized by the poetry.

It amazes me that the Church is not properly moved by the Magnificat. I don't see the mighty put down from their seats nor the exaltation of the humble and meek; I do not see the hungry filled with good things and the rich sent empty away; in recent years quite the opposite.

Jesus was the child of the *Magnificat*. He, too burned with a passion for social justice, When he was asked to teach his followers to pray it was that God's kingdom should be on earth as it is in heaven. Mary and Jesus challenge us - are we kingdom builders; here, now, for as long as we live.

Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art thou among women; and blessed is Jesus, the fruit of thy womb. Amen.

Our faith

Let us declare our faith in God Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Prayers of Intercession led by Diane Goodwin

Dear Lord, as we place our prayers and petitions before you this morning, help us to remember that you are the God who hears, that you are eager for us to come and talk with you; that you are a generous God who loves us and longs to give us the desires of our hearts. Help us to bless and praise you each day, giving thanks in all the little things and to be willing to bring our lives in line with your will To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with you, our God.

Lord, we pray that this would overflow in our church and community life. We pray that as we draw closer to you that others would see the work of your hands and your light shining in us. We ask that there would be a hunger in those around us to know more about you. We pray that as a community of Christians here at St Mary's and also with other churches in the villages we would all be able to work together with one purpose and one voice. Reveal your direction for us Lord and give us determination and courage to follow where you lead. Lord in your mercy.... **Hear our prayer**

There is so much injustice in our world. When all the news is dominated by Covid, help us Lord not to forget or give up praying for those who are oppressed, abused, afflicted, trafficked and downtrodden... because you hear every word of our every prayer. And even when we find it hard to pray and have no words, you still hear the longing in our heart and soul. We lift up all those in positions of leadership – for heads of nations and especially those responsible for

ministering to those who are vulnerable and in need. They are not exempt from errors of judgement and wrong doing. We ask for forgiveness for them and for all of us when we have taken the wrong road and fallen from grace. We pray that this would galvanise all of us to right any wrongs and to care even more. Open our eyes Lord to see that you are in the child who needs some affection and encouragement; in the man sleeping on a pavement; in the desperate refugee trying to find hope and life in a foreign country.

Lord in your mercy.... **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for our own nation. We pray for our Prime Minister and MPs that they would govern us with honesty and integrity and lead us carefully, confidently and boldly. We pray that all their decisions would be made for the greater good and benefit of all. We pray for our Queen, giving thanks for her duty, unswerving service and the upholding of her faith that she has shown throughout her reign. Thank you Lord for the gift of freedom you have granted this nation. Help us to stand up and be counted, to uphold the values of your Word, the Bible and our own Christian faith. You are Jesus, the one true hope for all of us – help us to share this hope with those around us.

Lord in your mercy.... **Hear our prayer**

Jesus, we pray for all those dear to us who need your healing touch or your loving arms around them. Those who are sick at home or in hospital; those struggling with difficult or stressful situations; and those on our prayer board. We ask for your blessing on them Lord and entrust them to your care. We also remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us and died in the faith, recalling those whose years mind falls at this time.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

A prayer for the coronavirus pandemic

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

We join together with Christians throughout the world in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
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 those who 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.**

Conclusion

The Collect for the day

Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power.

For you have created all things,
and by your will they have their being.

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed us for God.

From every tribe and language and nation,
**you have made us to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God.**

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
**be blessing and honour and glory and might
for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 4.11;5.9b,10,11)**

We end with the words of the Grace, an ancient Christian prayer of fellowship, remembering that although we are not together in person, nothing can separate us from the love of God found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Please let us know if you want us to pray for you either individually or if you would like to be included on the Prayer Chain.

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Reverend Joy Cousans; Reverend Stephen Burge

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