

Saint Mary Magdalene

Vespers · July 22, 2020

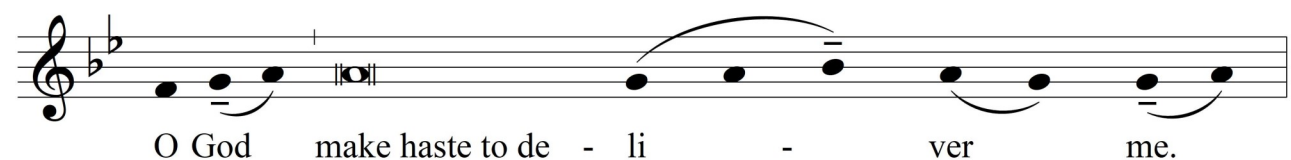
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Asheville NC



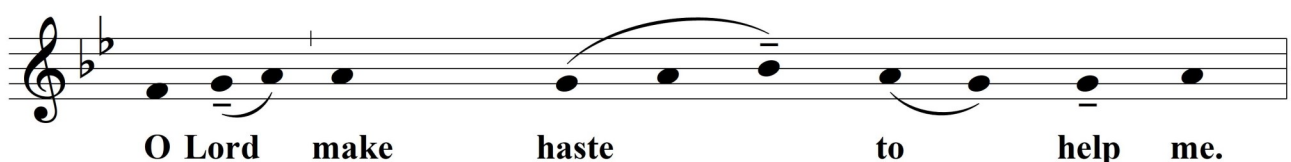
Today the church remembers the life and witness of Mary Magdalene. Mary was one of the only followers of Jesus to stay with him through his crucifixion, and was the first witness of his resurrection. For this she is remembered as the “apostle to the apostles.” As the Lutheran church celebrates the 50th anniversary of womens’ ordination, we give thanks for the witness of Mary Magdalene and all women who have born witness to the resurrection through the ages.

Vespers is one of the nine daily prayer services observed by monastic communities in various forms since the early days of Christianity. Our evening prayer liturgies, both Holden and the ELW settings, are derived from these services. Today we are using a version of vespers mostly drawn from the *Liber Usualis*, a 12th century book of Gregorian chant compiled by the monks of the Abbey of Solesmes, France. While some of the music may be unfamiliar, we hope you will find peace and beauty in this “plain” chant.

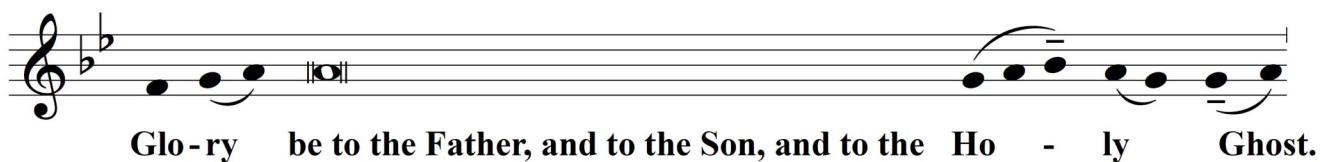
Verse and Response



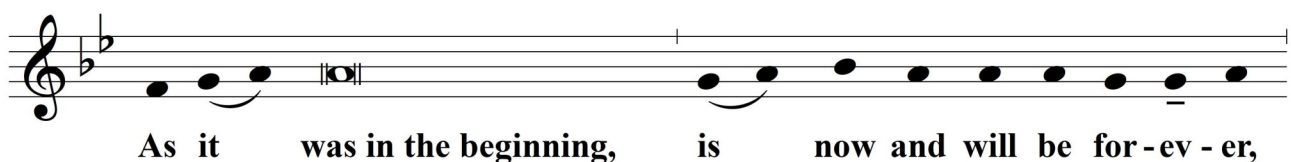
O God make haste to de - li - ver me.



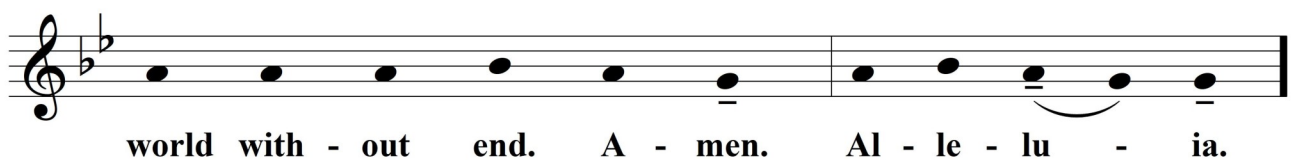
O Lord make haste to help me.



Glo-ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost.



As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for-ev-er,



world with - out end. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia.

Leader



Joy-ous light of glo - ry:

All



of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

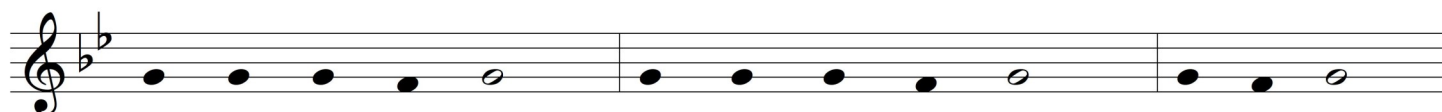


ev - er. O Son of God, O giv - er of life:

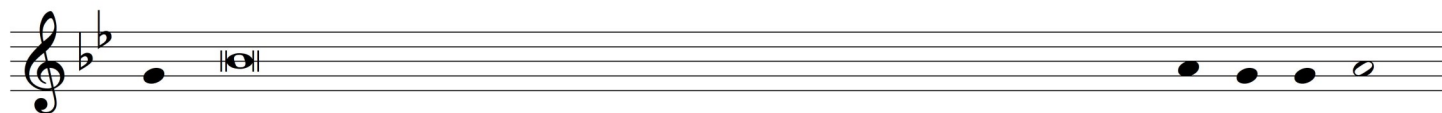


The u - ni - verse pro - claims your glo - ry.

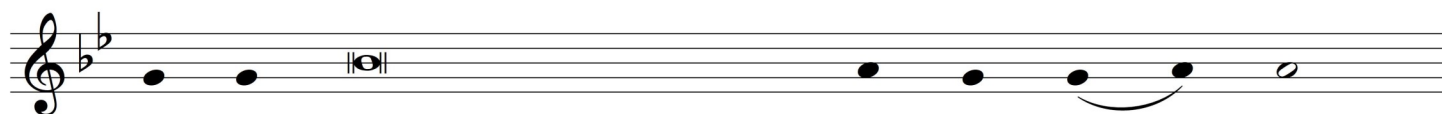
Prayer



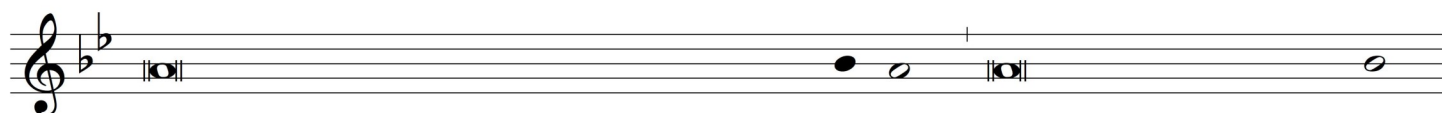
The Lord be with you. **And with your Spir - it.** Let us pray.



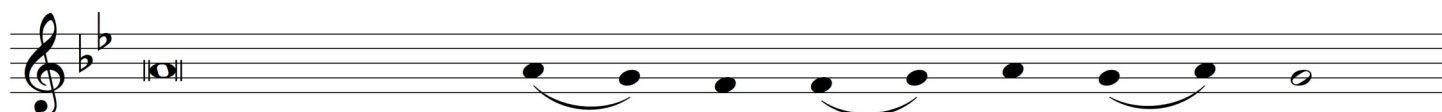
O God, whose only begotten Son entrusted to Mary Magdalene be - fore all oth-ers



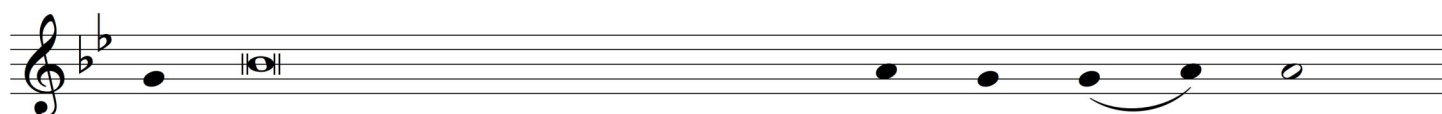
with an - nouncing the great joy of the res - ur - rec - tion,



grant, we pray, that through her intercession and examp-le, we may proclaim the living Christ,



and come to see him reign - ing in your glo - ry,



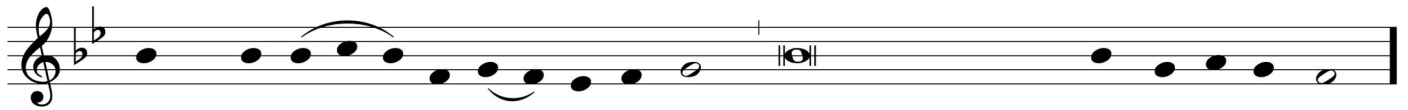
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Ho - ly Spir - it,



one God, now and for - ev - er. A - men. A - men.

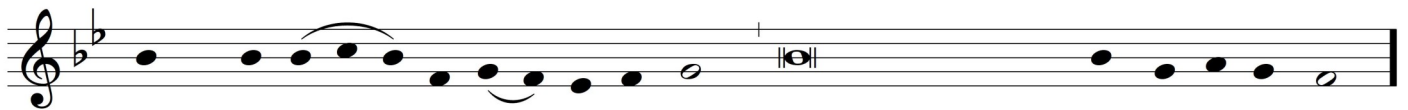
Psalm 73: 23-29

Antiphon (sung by all):



Whom have I in heav - en but you? and having you I desire noth-ing up-on earth.

- ²³Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
²⁴You will guide me by your counsel,
and afterwards receive me with glory.
²⁵Whom have I in heaven but you?
and having you I desire nothing upon earth.
²⁶Though my flesh and my heart should waste away,
God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.
²⁷Truly, those who forsake you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful.
²⁸But it is good for me to be near God;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge.
²⁹I will speak of all your works
in the gates of the city of Zion.



Whom have I in heav - en but you? and having you I desire noth-ing up-on earth.

First Reading

John 20: 11-18

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.

Second Reading

From a homily on the Gospels by Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome

She longed for Christ, though she thought he had been taken away

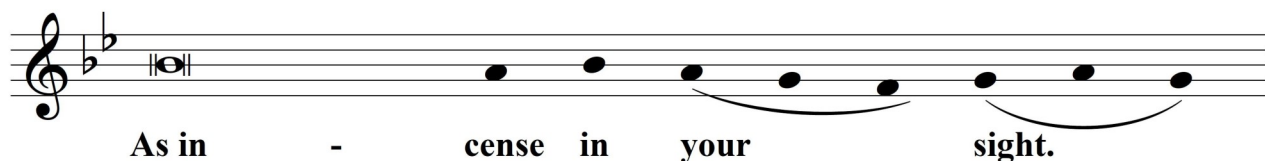
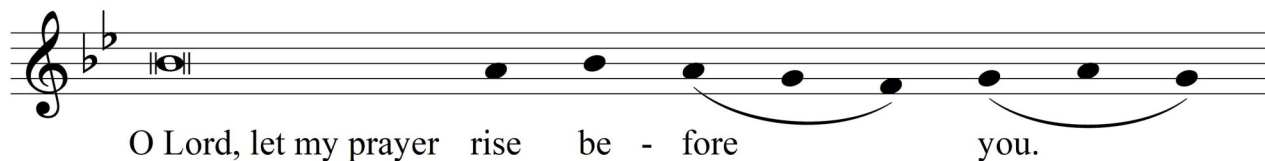
When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and did not find the Lord's body, she thought it had been taken away and so informed the disciples. After they came and saw the tomb, they too believed what Mary had told them. The text then says: "The disciples went back home," and it adds: "but Mary wept and remained standing outside the tomb."

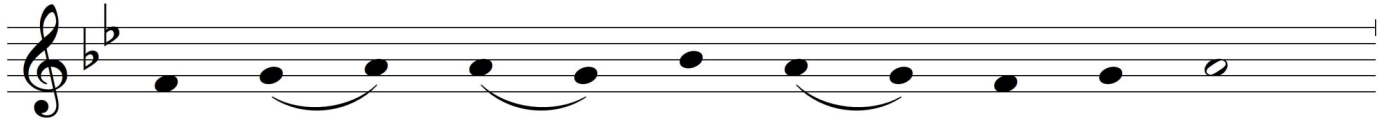
We should reflect on Mary's attitude and the great love she felt for Christ; for though the disciples had left the tomb, she remained. She was still seeking the one she had not found, and while she sought she wept; burning with the fire of love, she longed for him who she thought had been taken away. And so it happened that the woman who stayed behind to seek Christ was the only one to see him. For perseverance is essential to any good deed, as the voice of truth tells us: "Whoever perseveres to the end will be saved."

At first she sought but did not find, but when she persevered it happened that she found what she was looking for. When our desires are not satisfied, they grow stronger, and becoming stronger they take hold of their object. Holy desires likewise grow with anticipation, and if they do not grow they are not really desires. Anyone who succeeds in attaining the truth has burned with such a great love. As David says: "My soul has thirsted for the living God; when shall I come and appear before the face of God?" And so also in the Song of Songs the Church says: "I was wounded by love;" and again: "My soul is melted with love." "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" She is asked why she is sorrowing so that her desire might be strengthened; for when she mentions whom she is seeking, her love is kindled all the more ardently.

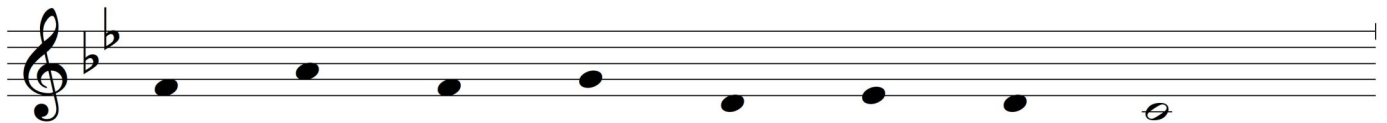
"Jesus says to her: Mary." Jesus is not recognised when he calls her "woman"; so he calls her by name, as though he were saying: Recognise me as I recognise you; for I do not know you as I know others; I know you as yourself. And so Mary, once addressed by name, recognises who is speaking. She immediately calls him "rabboni," that is to say, "teacher," because the one whom she sought outwardly was the one who inwardly taught her to keep on searching.

Response

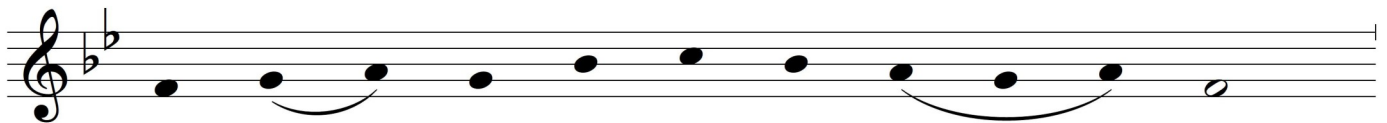




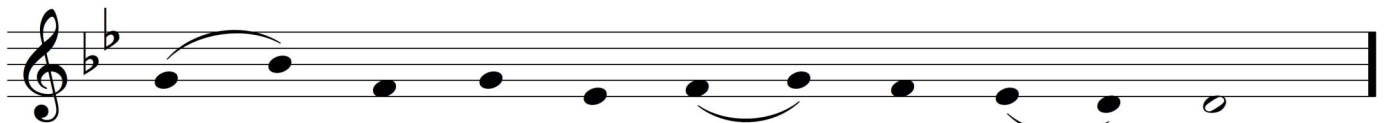
1. Fath - er of lights! one glance of Thine,
 2. Her pre - cious oint - ment forth she brings,
 3. Im - pass - ion'd to the Cross she clings;
 4. O Christ, thou ver - y Love it - self!
 5. To God the Fa - ther and the Son,



Whose eyes the Un - i - verse con - trol,
 Up - on those sac - red feet to pour;
 Nor fears be - side the tomb to stay;
 Blest hope of man, through Thee for - giv'n!
 With Thee, O Spi - rit, glo - ry be;



Fills Mag - da - lene with ho - ly love,
 She wash - es them with burn - ing tears;
 Of ruff - ian sold - iers nought she reck,
 So touch our spi - rits from a - bove,
 As ev - er was, and so shall be

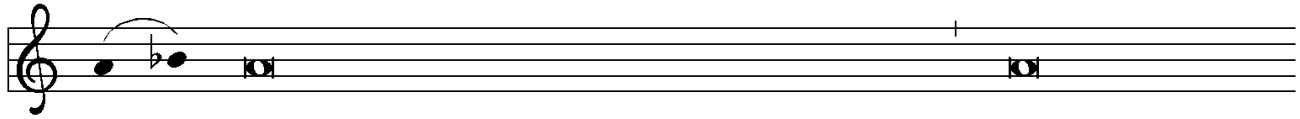


And melts the ice with - in her soul.
 And with her hair she wipes them o'er.
 For love has cast all fear a - way.
 And pur - i - fy our souls for Heaven.
 Through ag - es of e - ter - ni - ty.

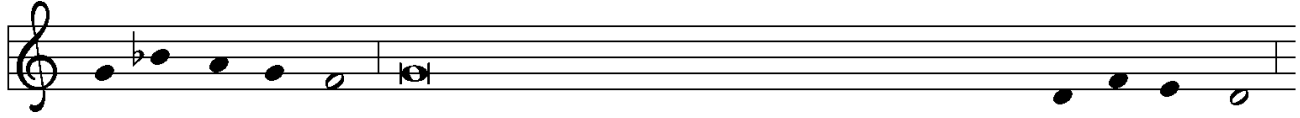
Text: Saint Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621); translated Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Tune: Plainchant mode III

Magnificat



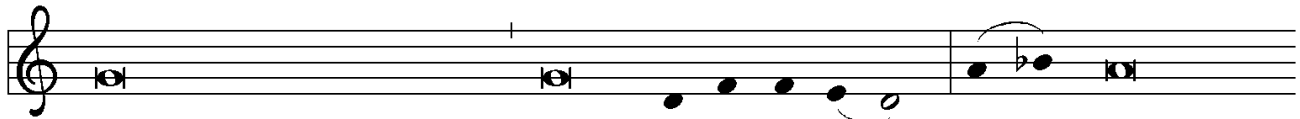
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices



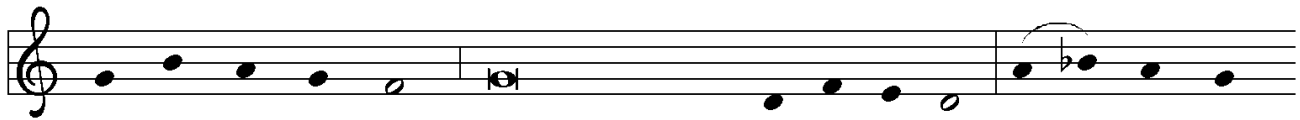
in God my Sav-ior, for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your low-ly ser- vant.



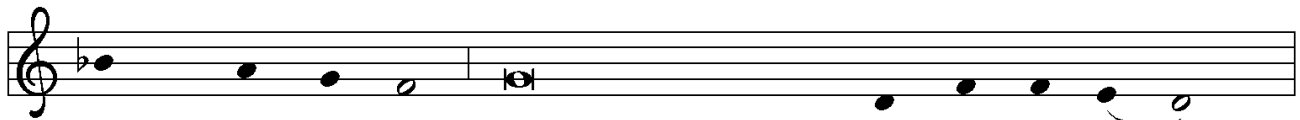
From this day all generations will call me bless-ed: you, the Almighty,



have done great things for me, and ho-ly is your name. You have mercy



on those who fear you, from generation to gen-er- a- tion. You have shown



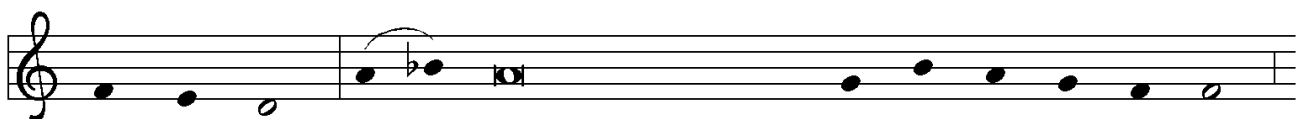
strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their con- ceit,



cast- ing down the might-y from their thrones and lift- ing up the low-ly.



You have filled the hun- gry with good things and sent the rich a -



way emp- ty. You have come to the aid of your ser- vant Is- ra- el,

to remember the prom - ise of mer - cy, the promise
made to our fore-bears, to Abraham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.

Music: Plainsong, tonus peregrinus

Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord** have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

For public servants, the government, and those who protects us; for those who work to bring peace, justice,
healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

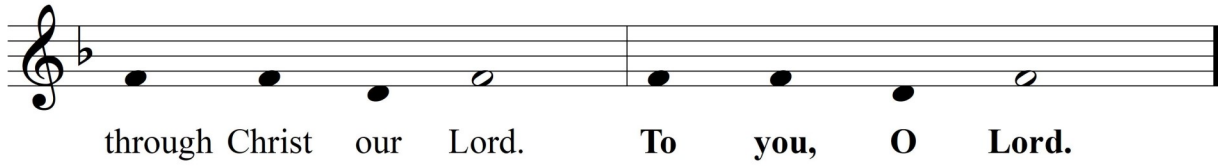
For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great
and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

A time of silence follows.

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of Mary Magdalene, the blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you,



Benediction

