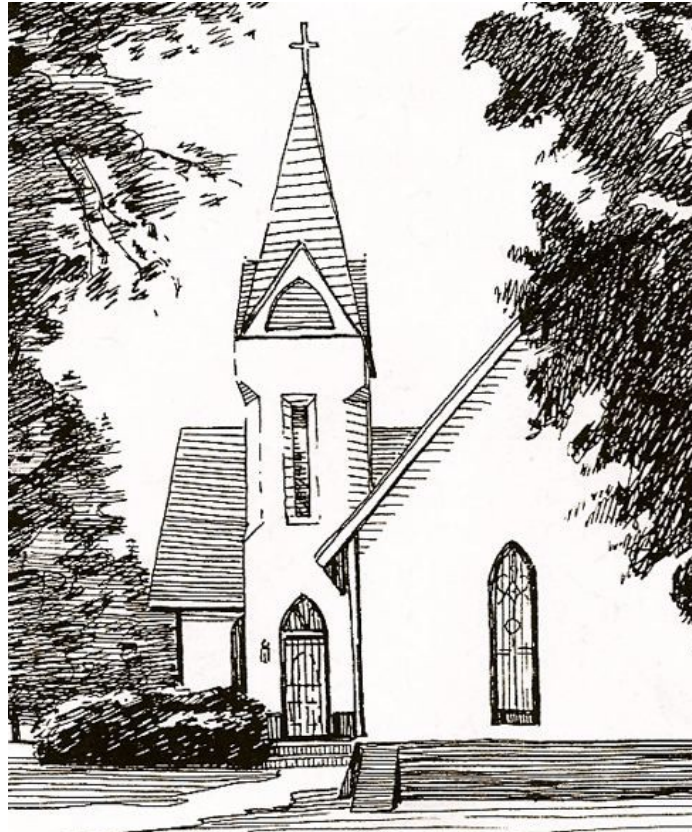


ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH



CHORISTER EVENSONG

Monday, February 23, 2026
5:45 p.m.



An Order for Evening Prayer (Rite II)

February 23, 2026
5:45 p.m.
Polycarp of Smyrna

Voluntary

Introit

A Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola

Barry Rose

*Teach us good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest,
To give, and not to count the cost;
To fight, and not to heed the wounds;
To toil, and not to seek for rest;
To labor, and not to ask any reward
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will. Amen.*

Opening Sentence

Officiant Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Invitatory and Psalter

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

The People stand as they are able and sing the Phos hilaron.

Phos hilaron

O gracious Light

TALLIS' CANON

1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
 2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
 3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O

you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
 lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
 Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
 Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
 all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

The People are seated for the Psalm and the Lessons.

- 9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? *
By keeping to your words.
- 10 With my whole heart I seek you; *
let me not stray from your commandments.
- 11 I treasure your promise in my heart, *
that I may not sin against you.
- 12 Blessed are you, O Lord; *
instruct me in your statutes.
- 13 With my lips will I recite *
all the judgments of your mouth.
- 14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees *
than in all manner of riches.
- 15 I will meditate on your commandments *
and give attention to your ways.
- 16 My delight is in your statutes; *
I will not forget your word.

Lessons

First Lesson

Numbers 23:5-12

A reading from Numbers.

The Lord put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, 'Return to Balak, and this is what you must say.' So he returned to Balak, who was standing beside his burnt-offerings with all the officials of Moab. Then Balaam uttered his oracle, saying: 'Balak has brought me from Aram, the king of Moab from the eastern mountains: "Come, curse Jacob for me; come, denounce Israel!" How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce those whom the Lord has not denounced? For from the top of the crags I see him, from the hills I behold him. Here is a people living alone, and not reckoning itself among the nations! Who can count the dust of Jacob, or number the dust-cloud of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!' Then Balak said to Balaam, 'What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but now you have done nothing but bless them.' He answered, 'Must I not take care to say what the Lord puts into my mouth?'

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle (read in unison)

Luke 1:46-55 (Song of Mary)

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson

Revelation 2:8-11

A reading from the Revelation to John.

'And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life: 'I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle (*chanted by the choir*)

Luke 2:29-32 (*Song of Simeon*)

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.
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 People stand as they are able.

Apostles' Creed (*read in unison*)

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.

Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

The People may kneel or remain standing as able.

Lord's Prayer *(read in unison)*

All **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. Amen.**

Suffrages *(chanted by the choir)*

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collects *(chanted by the choir)*

V. O God, the maker of heaven and earth, you gave your venerable servant, the holy and gentle Polycarp, the boldness to confess Jesus Christ as King and Savior and the steadfastness to die for his faith: Give us grace, following his example, to share the cup of Christ and to rise to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
R. Amen.
V. Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love.
R. Amen.

V. 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.

R. Amen.

General Thanksgiving

Officiant 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 ourselves 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.

People **Amen.**

The People may be seated for the Anthem.

Anthem (sung by the choir) Be still, for the presence of the Lord *David Evans*

*Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here;
come, bow before him now with reverence and fear.*

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

*Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendor he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light!*

*Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.*

The People stand as they are able for the Blessing and the Grace.

Blessing and Grace

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

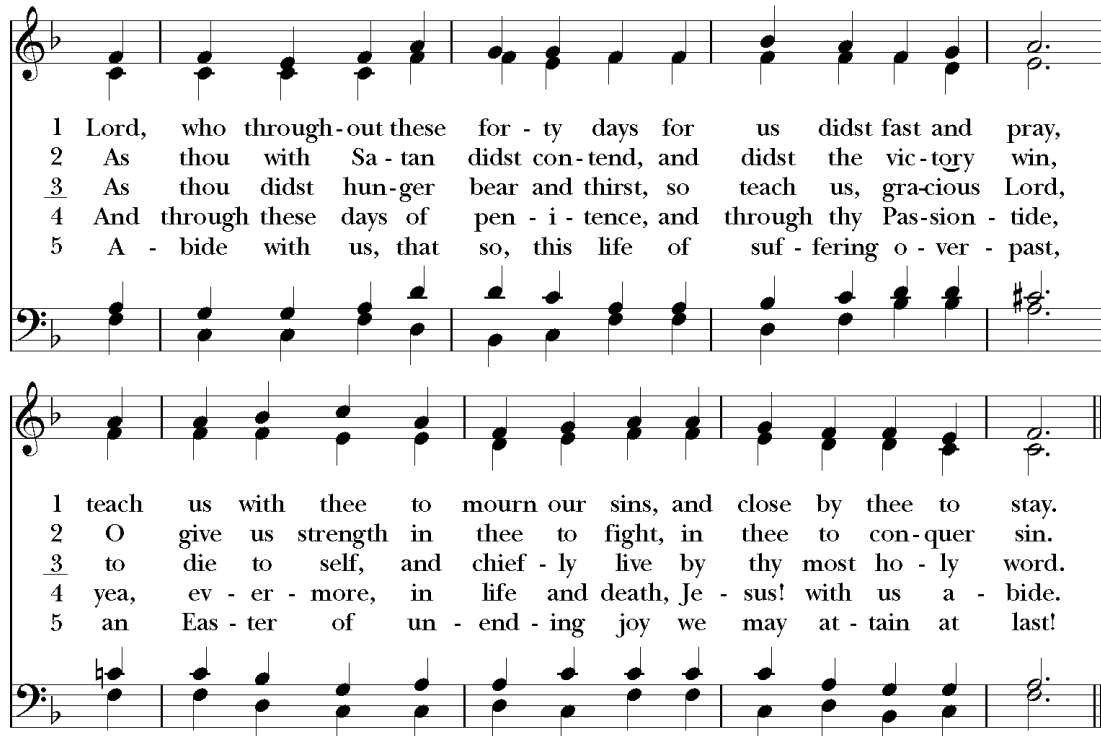
People **Amen.**

The People remain standing and sing the Hymn.

Hymn

Lord, who throughout these forty days

ST. FLAVIAN



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic-tory win,
3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,
1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

*The service ends in silence and the Choristers depart the Sanctuary.
All are welcome to attend our Community Dinner in the Parish Hall.*

About Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr of Smyrna

Polycarp, born in the year 69, was one of the leaders of the church who carried on the tradition of the apostles through the troubled controversies around Gnosticism in the second century. According to Irenaeus, who had known him in his early youth, Polycarp was a pupil of John, “the disciple of the Lord,” and had been appointed a bishop by “apostles in Asia.” We possess a letter from Polycarp to the Church in Philippi. It reveals his firm adherence to the faith, and his pastoral concern for fellow Christians in trouble. An early account of the martyrdom of Polycarp on February 23 is also preserved. It probably occurred in the year 156. The account tells of Polycarp’s courageous witness in the amphitheater at Smyrna. When the proconsul asked him to curse Christ, Polycarp said, “Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?” The account reports that the magistrate was reluctant to kill the gentle and harmless old man, but his hand was forced by the mob, who clamored that he be thrown to wild beasts, as was the fate of other Christians on that day. Instead, Polycarp was burned at the stake. Before his ordeal, he is reported to have looked up to heaven, and to have prayed: “Lord God Almighty, Father of your beloved and blessed child Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and hosts and all creation, and of the whole race of the upright who live in your presence, I bless you that you have thought me worthy of this day and hour, to be numbered among the martyrs and share in the cup of Christ, for resurrection to eternal life, for soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. Among them may I be accepted before you today, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice just as you, the faithful and true God, have prepared and foreshown and brought about. For this reason and for all things I praise you, I bless you, I glorify you, through the eternal heavenly high priest Jesus Christ, your beloved child, through whom be glory to you, with him and the Holy Spirit, now and for the ages to come. Amen.”

Chorister Evensongs 2025-2026

last Monday of the month at 5:45 p.m.

March 23 (*note date change)

April 27

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, *Rector*
The Rev. Patti Sachs, *Associate Rector*
Jim Douglas, *Director of Music*
Han Lee, *Sacred Music Intern*

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