

**Morning Prayer      Wednesday, February 25**  
**Emily Malbone Morgan**  
**Lay Leader and Contemplative, 1937**



Emily Malbone Morgan, with the support of Harriet Hastings, was the founder of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross (SCHC), in 1884. Begun as a community of Episcopal laywomen rooted in disciplined devotion, the society became both a faithful community of discipleship and prayer, and a strong force for social justice reform during the social gospel era around the turn of the twentieth century.

Emily Malbone Morgan was born on December 10, 1862, in Hartford, Connecticut. Her family were prominent Hartford citizens and their Anglican roots ran deep on both sides of her family.

A primary inspiration for Morgan was her friendship with Adelyn Howard. Howard was homebound and because of her confinement sought Morgan's support for both spiritual companionship and as a means by which she could offer intercessory prayer for others. In response to her friend's need, Morgan called together a small group of women for prayer and companionship. From that beginning, the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross came into being.

Morgan had a particular concern for working women who were tired, restless, and who had little hope for a vacation. In response, Morgan, with the help of a

growing number of her Companions, developed summer vacation houses across the Northeast where working women and their daughters could have some time away for physical and spiritual renewal and refreshment.

In 1901, the Society established a permanent home in Byfield, Massachusetts. With the construction of new facilities on the site in 1915, it took the name Adelynrood, which continues to exist as the headquarters and retreat center of the Society.

Morgan never married; she and her sisters in the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross lived a life of prayer, contemplation, and social justice, particularly for women. She died on February 27th, 1937.

### **Opening Sentence**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *I John 1:8, 9*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together*

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.

*The Priest says*

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

*A deacon or lay person using the preceding form remains kneeling, and substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant & People* 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.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

**Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

## **The Psalm for Today Psalm 119:137–144**

137 You are righteous, O LORD, \*  
and upright are your judgments.

138 You have issued your decrees \*  
with justice and in perfect faithfulness.

139 My indignation has consumed me, \*  
because my enemies forget your words.

140 Your word has been tested to the uttermost, \*  
and your servant holds it dear.

141 I am small and of little account, \*  
yet I do not forget your commandments.

142 Your justice is an everlasting justice \*  
and your law is the truth.

143 Trouble and distress have come upon me, \*  
yet your commandments are my delight.

144 The righteousness of your decrees is everlasting; \*  
grant me understanding, that I may live.

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.

## **The Lesson Luke 10:38–42**

As they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all

the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

**Canticle 10 The First Song of Isaiah** *Ecce, Deus*  
*Isaiah 12:2-6*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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

**The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together*

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.

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, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.  
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.  
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R. For we put our trust in you.  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Inspire us, Gracious God, with that same spirit of devotion that animated your servant Emily Malbone Morgan; that, like her, we might dedicate our lives to your service and to the welfare of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*A Collect for the Renewal of Life*

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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.*

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

*The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following*

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.*

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* *Romans 15:13*

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*

### **The Gospel for Sunday**

### **John 3:1-17**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told

you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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### **John 3:1-17**

Nicodemus, a teacher and leader of the Jewish community, comes to speak to Jesus in the night. He has seen the signs Jesus has performed in Jerusalem. Nicodemus wants to understand who Jesus is and what he is saying, but he doesn't want to be seen talking to him. Nicodemus recognizes that there is something special about Jesus and says he has “come from God.” Yet Nicodemus still doesn't quite get the whole reality of what Jesus is telling him. Jesus is speaking about being “born from above,” but Nicodemus takes him literally. Jesus is speaking about a spiritual rebirth that comes from faith in God. Like the wind, the Spirit is not something that can be controlled or manipulated. It works mysteriously. Nicodemus is searching for concrete answers to his questions, but Jesus seems to be speaking a different language. He challenges Nicodemus to understand that God loves the world so much, that he gave his only Son to save the world.

Sometimes, we can get tangled up in confusing theological questions. Sometimes, we go through times of spiritual wandering

in the dark. Sometimes, we just want concrete answers to our questions. Jesus tells us, quite simply, that the answer to all of our questions is love.

- Have you ever felt uncomfortable expressing your faith, your questions, your doubts?
- How do you respond when God challenges you to go beyond your comfort zone?