

# The Season After PENTECOST

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

## FEAST OF MECHTHILD OF MAGDEBURG

Wednesday, 29 May 2024, 9:30 AM

From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)



**Mechthild** (or **Mechtild**, **Matilda**,<sup>[1]</sup> **Matelda**<sup>[2]</sup>) of **Magdeburg** (c. 1207 – c. 1282/1294), a **Beguine**, was a Christian **medieval mystic**, whose book *Das fließende Licht der Gottheit* (*The Flowing Light of Divinity*) is a compendium of visions, prayers, dialogues and mystical accounts.<sup>[3]</sup> She was the first mystic to write in Low German.

### **Life**

Definite biographical information about Mechthild is scarce; what is known of her life comes largely from scattered hints in her work. She was born into a noble **Saxon** family.<sup>[4][5]</sup> She had her first vision of the **Holy Spirit** at the age of twelve.<sup>[6]</sup> In 1230 she left her home and “renounced worldly honour and worldly riches”<sup>[4]</sup> to become a Beguine at **Magdeburg**.<sup>[6]</sup> There, like **Hadewijch of Antwerp**, she seems to have exercised a position of authority in a Beguine community.<sup>[7]</sup> In Magdeburg she became acquainted with the **Dominicans** and became a Dominican tertiary.<sup>[8]</sup> It

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Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

**Entrance Rites** - The people stand as they are able.

**Opening Acclamation:**

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**Gloria—**

H1982 #S-278

**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 Fa-  
ther,**

**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.**

**Salutation**

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

**Collect of the Day:**

**Draw the souls of your people into your love, O God, that like your  
servant Mechthild, we may yearn to be fully yours, for you know us  
better than we can know ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever  
Amen.**

**The Word of God:** *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

## **First Lesson: A Reading from Song of Songs (3:1–5):**

Upon my bed at night

I sought him whom my soul loves;

I sought him, but found him not;

I called him, but he gave no answer.

"I will rise now and go about the city,

in the streets and in the squares;

I will seek him whom my soul loves."

I sought him, but found him not.

The sentinels found me,

as they went about in the city.

"Have you seen him whom my soul loves?"

Scarcely had I passed them,

when I found him whom my soul loves.

I held him, and would not let him go

until I brought him into my mother's house,

and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,

by the gazelles or the wild does:

do not stir up or awaken love

until it is ready!

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm:**

**Psalm 119:41-48 (read in unison)**

**41 Let your loving-kindness come  
to me, O Lord, \***

**and your salvation, according to  
your promise.**

**42 Then shall I have a word for  
those who taunt me, \***

**because I trust in your words.**

**43 Do not take the word of truth  
out of my mouth, \***

**for my hope is in your judgments.**

**44 I shall continue to keep your  
law; \***

**I shall keep it for ever and ever.**

**45 I will walk at liberty, \***  
**because I study your  
commandments.**

**46 I will tell of your decrees before  
kings \***

**and will not be ashamed.**

**47 I delight in your  
commandments, \***

**which I have always loved.  
48 I will lift up my hands to your  
commandments, \*  
and I will meditate on your statutes.**

**Gospel Lesson:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Deacon: Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to: **Mark(8:22-26):**

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus and his disciples came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking." Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**HOMILY**

## **Nicene Creed** All say together (CONTEMPORARY VERSION)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **Prayers of the People (Form 1, edited, BCP pp. 383-385)**

**Leader:** With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God,

**People:** **and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Leader:** For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,

**People:** **and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Leader:** For our Bishops, priests, and deacons, and for all ministers in your unending loving-kindness we lift up to you:

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: *The Diocese in Europe – The Church of England.*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer: *Grace Church, in Lake Havasu City.* And we pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache peoples who called this area home. May we continue to support one another in love and empathy. Come, Spirit of Truth,

**People:** **and for people doing God's will, let us pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For our President, for the leaders of the nations,

**People: and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For this city of Sierra Vista, for every city and community,

**People: and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth,

**People: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and the suffering, for the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives,

**People: and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection,

**People: and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation,

**People: For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.**

Leader: That we may end our lives in faith and hope,

**People: without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.**

Leader: Defend us, deliver us, and in your compassion protect us, O Lord, with your grace.

**People: In the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to you Holy and Living God. Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

**All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that influences us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.       **Amen.**

## **Exchange of the Peace**

Presider     May the peace of Christ be always with you

**All           And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Presider:    I appeal to you, friends, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Doxology #380 vs. 3

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

EOW 2

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

**People: You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.**

Presider: And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

**All:** Hymnal #S124

Sanctus -

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

**Living among us, Jesus loved us.**

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

**He yearned to draw all the world to himself; yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.**



Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

**Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.**

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new Creation (+), the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

**In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN**  
And now as Jesus taught us, we pray: (Contemporary 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread (*Presider breaks the consecrated bread*)

Fraction Anthem G#830 Refrain Only: Seed Scattered and Sown

**See, scattered and sown, Wheat gathered and grown  
Bread, broken and shared as one, the living bread of God**

**Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands**

**One cup that is shared by all**

**The living cup, the living bread of God.**

## **Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

**People: Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.**

*All are welcome and invited to come to The Lord's Table and receive communion in this church. It is gluten free bread and real wine. To dip/intinct your bread into the wine and then consume it, please come to the left altar rail. To eat your bread and then sip wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest and we will give you a blessing.).*

## **Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, and Gratitude**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Presider: Let us pray:

**God of abundance, you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one**

**with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world,  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **Benediction:**

Presider: And now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with all of you now and forever.. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

seems clear that she read many of the Dominican writers.<sup>[9]</sup> It was her Dominican confessor, Henry of Halle, who encouraged and helped Mechthild to compose *The Flowing Light*.<sup>[6]</sup>

Her criticism of church dignitaries<sup>[10]</sup> and her claims to theological insight aroused so much opposition that some called for the burning of her writings. With advancing age, she was not only isolated and the object of extensive criticism, but she also became blind.<sup>[11]</sup> Around 1272, she joined the Cistercian [nunnery at Helfta](#) which offered her protection and support in the final years of her life. Here, she finished writing down the contents of the many divine revelations she says she experienced. It is unclear whether she actually formally joined the Cistercian community or whether she simply resided there and participated in the religious services without taking Cistercian monastic vows.<sup>[11]</sup> The nuns of Helfta were highly educated and important works of mysticism survive from Mechthild's younger contemporaries, St [Mechthild of Hackeborn](#) and St [Gertrude the Great](#).

It is unclear when Mechthild died. 1282 is a commonly cited date, but some scholars believe she lived into the 1290s.<sup>[12]</sup>

## **Composition**

Mechthild's book is written in the [Middle Low German](#) that was spoken in the region of Magdeburg at the time. It includes phrases in Latin.<sup>[13]</sup>

## **Works**

Mechthild's writings comprise the seven books of *Das fließende Licht der Gottheit* (*The Flowing Light of Divinity*), which was composed between 1250 and 1280. There appear to have been three stages in the evolution of the work. The first five books were finished by about 1260. During the next decade Mechthild added a sixth book. After joining the community of [Cistercian](#) nuns at Helfta around 1272, she added a seventh book, rather different in tone from the previous six.<sup>[14]</sup>

*The Flowing Light* was originally written in [Middle Low German](#), the language of northern Germany. While her original composition is now lost, the text survives in two later versions. First, around 1290, Dominican friars of the Halle community translated the first six books into Latin. Then, in the mid-fourteenth century, the secular priest [Henry of Nördlingen](#) translated *The Flowing Light* into the [Alemannic](#) dialect of [Middle High German](#). This version survives complete in one manuscript and in fragmentary form in three others.<sup>[12]</sup> The sole surviving copy of *The Flowing Light* is located in the Einsiedeln library in Switzerland and was rediscovered in 1861.<sup>[15][16]</sup>

What is unusual about her writings is that she composed her work in Middle Low German at a time when most wisdom literature was composed in Latin. Thus she is remembered as an early proponent and popularizer of German as a language worthy of the divine and holy.<sup>[11]</sup>

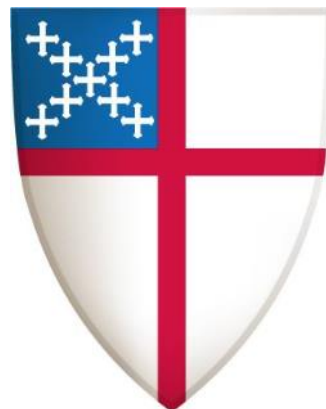
Mechthild's writing is exuberant and highly sophisticated. Her images of [Hell](#) are believed by some scholars to have influenced [Dante Alighieri's](#) *The Divine Comedy*, and Mechthild is thought to have been represented by Dante in that work, in the character of [Matelda](#).<sup>[17][5][18]</sup> However, there is no concrete evidence for this and there are important differences in Dante's conception of Hell.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

While her work was translated into [Latin](#) during her lifetime, it had

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Please leave voicemail message

### Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check  here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update   Giving Envelopes    Mail News Letter  

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
— (first) (Mid.) (Last)

Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDate \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_