

**Saint Mary Magdalene**      22 July  
*Holy Day*

Mary was called the Magdalene because she was a woman of Mag'dala, a village in Galilee. In the Gospels it is said that Jesus cast seven demons out of her and that she was one of a group of women who followed him and used their wealth to provide for the rest of his companions.

Mary accompanied Jesus to Jerusalem, and three of the evangelists — Matthew, Mark, and John — give her first place among the women disciples who stood nearby while their Lord was crucified. All the Gospel accounts agree that, on the morning of the third day, she went to his tomb in order to anoint his corpse — and was astonished to find the tomb empty, except for mysterious strangers who told her that Christ was risen. According to John, it was just then that Mary became the first to behold and speak with the risen Lord himself; John also reports that Jesus appointed her to proclaim the news of his resurrection to the apostles. For this reason Mary Magdalene is regarded as their equal by the Eastern Church, for she was the apostle to the apostles.

*See Readings, page 606.*

**Sentence**

If any serve me, the Father will honour them. *John 12.26*

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son restored Mary Magdalene  
to health of mind and body  
and called her to be a witness of his resurrection,  
forgive us and heal us by your grace,  
that we may serve you in the power of his risen life;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Readings**

Judith 9.1, 11-14 *or* 2 Corinthians 5.14-18      Psalm 42.1-7  
*Refrain* My soul thirsts for you, O God, my God. *Or v. 1 or CR 4*  
John 20.1-3, 11-18

**Prayer over the Gifts**

God of life and health,  
in your Son Jesus Christ  
we find the forgiveness of all that is past.  
Grant that in this eucharist today  
we may find the healing of all our sins.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Preface of a Saint*

**Prayer after Communion**

Compassionate God,  
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins  
and given us your healing.  
Grant that all who have shared in holy things  
may bring your healing to this broken world,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.