

Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community 15th Anniversary Year - 2005-2020



Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2020

Introduction & Welcome

Welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community in San Diego, California, gathered from locations all around the region and the world during this time. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are. We are glad you are joining us.

For the best worship experience for all, we ask that those of you joining us remain muted unless you are offering a prayer intention. We encourage you to sing along at home. You may wish to have bread and wine (or something similar) with you to share in our spiritual communion. After our liturgy concludes, we will have a brief break before gathering for some social time. All are welcome to join us for that time.

Opening Song - Canticle of the Sun

Haugen

***The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of our God!***

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day,
Carries the light of our God in his rays;
The moon and the stars who light up the way unto our path! **R.**

Praise for the rain that waters our fields,
And blesses our crops so all the earth yields;
From death unto life her mystery revealed Springs forth in joy! **R.**

Praise for the earth, who makes life to grow
The creatures you made to let your life show;
The flowers and trees that help us to know the heart of love! **R.**

Opening Rite

We begin our liturgy by blessing the name of our God with the sign of our faith:

+ In the name of God, who is Speaker, Word, & Breath. **Amen.**

May the grace of Jesus the Christ, the love of God, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Knowing God's Loving Kindness

God, who leads us through life, we pause for a moment to remember the times this past week when our lives have not been centered on you:

Living God, we often forget Your Presence among us.

Help us to experience Your Presence.

Risen Christ, we often close our minds and hearts to Your living Word.

Help us to receive Your Word.

Blazing Spirit, we often forget to be Your presence to others.

Help us to live Your Gospel.

May Jesus the Risen Christ, renew us to live in the freedom of God so that we live our lives with trust, joy, and compassion, shared with all we meet. **Amen.**

Gloria

Haas

Gloria to God in the highest, Sing glory to God!

Gloria to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

O God, heavenly God, Divine One, and Creator.

We worship You, we give You thanks.

We praise You for Your glory. **R**

O Jesus Christ, you are Child of our God, Holy One, the Messiah.

You lift us to the fullness of life. You make us one body.

You are bread for the world, you are bread for the world. **R**

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are Messiah, the Chosen, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God Creator. **R**

Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

Holy One, you remind us to not be afraid and to cast all our anxieties on you, Beloved. Fill us you're your peace, and let your calming presence disperse all our fears and anxieties. We pray... **Amen.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Festus, one of the religious officials sent to scavenge the countryside to prosecute followers of Jesus who had fled Jerusalem, went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem where he received a report against Paul.

When the accusers stood up, they did not charge Paul with any of the crimes that Festus was expecting. Instead they had certain points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. Since Festus was at a loss how to investigate these questions, he ordered Paul to be held until he could see the emperor. Meanwhile, King Agrippa and Queen Bernice agreed to hear Paul.

The next day Agrippa and Bernice entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent people of the city. And Paul was brought in.

Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak." Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself:

"At first, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem. With authority from the head priests, I not only locked up many of the holy people in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so furiously enraged at them that I pursued them even to foreign cities.

"With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the religious authorities, when at midday along the road, your Excellencies, I saw a radiance from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground. Then, I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you?' The apparition answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you to serve and testify to this vision and to other ways I will appear to you. I will rescue you and send you to the Gentiles, so they too may know that they have a place among the chosen faithful..."

Agrippa got up. The governor, Bernice and those who had been seated with them got up. As they were leaving, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment."

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

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Wisdom 11:21-12:1*

The Psalm Response is:

R: Wisdom loves all Her children.

*You chose the humble to reveal your power
and the weak to show great strength.*

None can resist You.

*With You, the entire universe is like a grain of sand
that barely tips the scales,*

*or a drop of dew settling on the grass
in the morning.*

R: Wisdom loves all Her children.

*Because You can do all things,
You have compassion for all.
You forgive people's failings, so they may repent.
You love all things that exist.
You detest none of the things that You have created.*

R: Wisdom loves all Her children.

*How would anything have endured
if You had not desired it?
How could anything have lasted
unless You called it into being?
You spare all things, for they are Yours, O God,
You Who love the living.
Your imperishable breath is in all things.*

R: Wisdom loves all Her children.

Second Reading	1 Peter 2:23 + 5:7-11
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A Reading from the First Letter attributed to Peter:

When Jesus was reviled and insulted, he did not revile or offer insult in return. When Jesus suffered and was abused, he did not look for vengeance; but rather Jesus trusted himself and everything to the One Who discerns with justice.

Therefore, cast all your anxiety on the One who cares for you.

Be alert and of sober mind. Resist evil, for, like a roaring lion, it will devour. Stand firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings .

And the God of all grace, who called you to everlasting glory in Christ, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast after you have suffered a little while. To God whose strength is revealed in weakness, be the power of Love for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia! Love is Alive!	Angrisano, Hart, Manibusen
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**Alleluia! Love is Alive! Conquered the grave and defeated the night!
Alleluia! Love is Alive! Christ has arisen for all!
The people sing alleluia!**

Our God is with you. ***And also with you.***

A reading from the Gospel attributed to Luke. ***Glory to You, O God.***

Speaking to the disciples on the night before he was to die, Jesus said:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. In the house of my Loving God, there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "We don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. You come to God by following me. If you know me, you will know my Loving God also. From now on, you do know. You have seen God."

Philip said to Jesus, "Show us God, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still don't know me? Whoever has seen me has seen our Loving God. How can you say, 'Show us God'?"

Believe me that I am in our Loving God and our Loving God is in me; but, if you don't believe, then believe me because of the works themselves. Truly, I tell you, the one who trusts in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going back to our Loving God. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do.

When I go, I will ask God to send you another Companion to be with you always, the Spirit of Truth, your Advocate and Comforter. You know Her because She abides with you, and will be among you and in you.

The Gospel of the Resurrection.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful

"The God of all grace ... will restore you and make you strong ... after you have suffered a little while." Clearly these words from so long ago speak to us as well. As we continue our heartfelt celebration of Easter, let us ask for all that we and the whole world need in this time of special suffering.

Our response: ***Risen One, send us your Spirit! Alleluia!***

That like Paul we get up and stand on our feet, ready to serve and to testify to the vision ... we pray ...
(Response)

That we witness to the world that "You love all things that exist, and you detest none of the things that You have created" ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

That as Peter advised, we cast all our anxiety on the One who cares for us ... we pray ... **(Response)**

In solidarity with our women ministers and pastors, and with all who are working to bring to our times the full inclusive witness of the first believers in the Resurrection ... we pray ... **(Response)**

In thanksgiving for our life-sustaining Earth, the original and continuing revelation of God's love for us and for all of God's creatures ... we pray ... **(Response)**

For all those who do not accept our way of honoring and living the discipleship of equals ... we pray as Jesus said we should ... **(Response)**

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Paschal community of Alleluia and sorrow, remembering as well the universal needs of all people and of our one Earth. All those who wish to share a prayer, please unmute your microphone and speak your prayer briefly and clearly.

Let us now take a moment to remember all the prayers and intentions here today that have remained unspoken, deep in the silence of our hearts . . .

For these intentions and for all the prayer intentions written in our community prayer book . . . we pray ... **(Response)**

Holy One, you have called us to follow in the way of the risen Christ, and to care for others, not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love. Hear the prayers we bring to you aloud and those that remain deep in the silence of our hearts. Comfort and heal all those who are suffering and hold them in your tender embrace. We pray in the name of the One who is Love... **Amen.**

Offertory Song - Our Easter Prayer	Hart
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God, be in our minds and in our understanding.
Be our every thought and be our Easter prayer.
All alone in the dark, the stone seals you away till the time to appear
Here, Be in our minds God, be our everything.

God, be in our hearts , impatiently waiting for you.
Let shadows depart and sweetest day now dawn.
Send the angels to roll back the stone for us, Let us see Jesus rise
Here, Be in our hearts, God be our every joy.

God be in our eyes, as we arise this morning.
Show He is not gone but has been raised to life.
Standing with us protecting against the hate, Loving those who have fear.
Jesus live in our eyes and in our minds and in our hearts.
Christ be our risen hope.

Our Eucharist

Blessed are You, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are You, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God forever.

Friends, pray that sharing this bread and wine will deepen our commitment to live the Gospel.

With the Risen Christ we commit ourselves to live the Gospel.

Prayer with our Gifts

Holy One, may the gifts we share be a sign of hope for the world. May they nurture and strengthen us in our commitments to live out Jesus' call. We pray... ***Amen.***

Eucharistic Prayerⁱ

God dwells in you. ***And also in you.***

Come to the table with thankful hearts. ***We open our hearts to God and to one another.***

God of all Creation, with your breath, all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home. You are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life. Your love restores our broken world. Your Chosen One, Jesus the Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of new life. And so we join with all of creation, on earth and throughout the cosmos, singing our unending song of praise:

Sanctus

Booth

Holy, Holy, Holy, O God, our God, Spirit and Life

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are all who come in the name of our God.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed Mary Magdalene's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery shone clear that life in You transcends death. May we follow Jesus' example and love our neighbors and our enemies as ourselves and give Your Spirit freedom to act in us to transform ourselves and our world.

[Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.]

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, Jesus renewed the promise of his presence. On the night before he died, he gathered with his friends to share a final meal. We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ. We remember that...

All: ...on the night before Jesus died, while at supper with his friends, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying: "Take this, all of you and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me."

[Pause]

In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine. He said the blessing, gave the cup to his friends, and said, "Take this all of you and drink. This is my life-blood, the covenant of new and everlasting life. Do this in memory of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

[spoken]

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, O Jesus, until you come again.**

Let Your Spirit also come upon all leaders, secular and religious. Catch all of them by surprise. Fill their hearts with a longing for equality and justice. Imbue them with the joy of divine diversity. Bestow on them the wealth of humble service to others. Make them faithful servants of the body of Christ.

Be with those who are sick and those who suffer, especially in this time of pandemic. Be with all who are caregivers, nurses, doctors, and technicians. Be with all those who are essential workers – in stores, in government, delivery drivers and all those to risk their health for our sake. Be with those who are at risk from this virus and who do not have the means to protect themselves. Be with all who have died and gone before us into the fullness of union with You, especially our community member Ray Phoenix. Be with us in our struggling attempts live out your example of love. With the help of Jesus, strengthen us to live lives that bring You honor and glory:

**In the name of God, Source of Life,
In the name of Jesus, Source of Transformation,
In the name of the Spirit, Source of Freedom,
We offer our prayer of praise, this day and forever.**

[sung]

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

Prayer of Jesusⁱⁱ

Throughout the centuries, the prayer of Jesus, often known as the "Our Father," has been translated and rendered in many different ways. At this time, we invite you to join us in praying in the language and words most comfortable to you. We offer this contemporary version:

**Loving God, Source of our being,
All Creation sings of you, "Holy!"
May your vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.**

*May this world blossom out of your delight.
Provide us today with what we need
to be nourished in body, soul, and heart.
Give us the breath of life, one breath at a time.
Forgive us for the harm we cause
as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys
and liberate us from the hands of evil.
For the world is within you;
All power is from you,
And all glory is about you, our comfort and strength.
Now and forever. Amen.*

Sign of Peace

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us offer one another – and the whole world – God’s peace.

Lamb of God

Booth

*Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Hope. O Lamb of God.
Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Love. O Lamb of God.
Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Peace. O Lamb of God. Grant us peace.*

This is the Bread of the Resurrection, the Wine of New Life.
We are blessed to share in the Mystery of Life.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we are raised up into new life.

We believe that Christ is present with us whenever and wherever we are. So, the table you are using right now is no longer your table alone. It is part of Christ’s table, and you are part of Christ’s church. May all who share with us in this spiritual communion be united with us in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. **Amen.**

Communion Song: Taste and See

Moore

*Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of our God.
O taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of our God, of our God.*

I will bless our God at all times.
Praise shall always be on our lips;
our souls shall glory in our God
for God has been so good to us. **R.**

Glorify the Lord with us.
Together let us all praise God's name.

I called on God who answers us;
from all our troubles we are set free. **R.**

Worship our God, all you people.
You'll want nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that our God is good;
in God we need put all our trust. **R.**

Prayer After Communion

written by the Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, United Church of Canada

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:
When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;
when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."
For the doctors, we pray, for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists, the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick, and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected, all around the world...
we pray for safety, for health, for wholeness.
May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal the sick—
in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear.
Help us, O God, that we might help each other.
In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all, we pray. **Amen.**

Closing Blessingⁱⁱⁱ

May the advocate, God's Holy Spirit,
sent in Christ's name,
teach us and remind us of Christ's words:

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Do not be afraid.
Christ's peace goes with us all
Christ peace, that the world cannot take away, be with you
Christ's peace, and the Spirit's presence, remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Forth

Let us go forth in peace and love, Alleluia. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Closing Song: Turning of the World

Thomsen

1. Let us sing the song for the **turning** of the world, that we may **turn** as one.
With every voice with every song, we will move this world along
and our lives will feel the echo of our **turning**.

With every voice, with every song, we will move this world along
With every voice, with every song, we will move this world along,
and our lives will feel the Echo of our **turning**.

2. loving/love

3. Healing/love

4. Dreaming

We are grateful that you have joined us for worship tonight.

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. Financial support is essential to breathe life into this dream and to keep it alive for future generations. To underscore our commitment, we support a full-time paid priest (ordained by the Roman Catholic WomanPriest movement) and a variety of social justice activities, giving a percentage of our Sunday offering back into the community. To support our community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>.

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Some song lyrics have been adapted to align with our commitment to inclusive language.

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ⁱ Our Eucharistic Prayer draws inspiration from many sources, including: The Episcopal Church's 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* (Eucharistic Prayer C), past MMACC liturgies (written by Nancy Corran, Kori Pacyniak, Joe Stewart, Jane Via & MMACC's liturgy committee), and other sources.

ⁱⁱ The "Prayer of Jesus" or "Lord's Prayer" has been translated and rendered in many ways throughout the centuries. This version is an adaption by Kori Pacyniak of versions by <http://enfleshed.com> and Steve Garnaas-Holmes on <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Closing blessing adapted from "Pentecost Blessing" by Howard Carter, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/06/benediction-john-14-27.html>