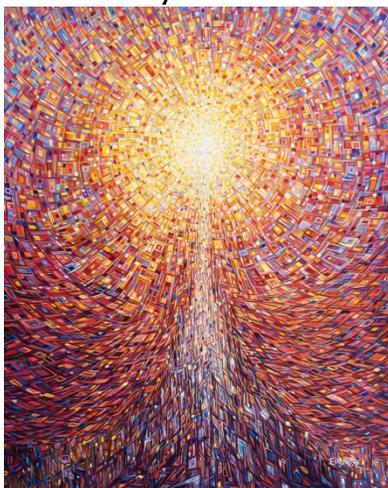


# Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year - 2005-2020



## Feast of the Ascension – May 24, 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 – *One Spirit, One Church*

Keil & Quinlivan

Refrain:

***We are a pilgrim people, we are the Church of God.***

***A fam'ly of believers, disciples of our God.***

***United in one spirit, ignited by the fire;***

***Still burning through the ages, still present in our lives.***

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
And in our hearts take up thy rest;  
Come with thy grace and heav'nly aid  
to fill the hearts which thou hast made. **R**

O Comforter, to thee we cry,  
Thou gift of God sent from on high.  
Thou font of life and fire of love,  
The soul's anointing from above. **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

**Glory to God in the highest, Sing glory to God!**

**Glory 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

Incomprehensible Holy Mystery, as we celebrate Jesus' Ascension with the church worldwide, we awaken to a new consciousness of life on earth and life with You. Let this gathering, in which we are scattered over miles and great distance, be itself evidence of the oneness of all that is despite apparent separateness. May we embrace Your cosmic mystery with the joy that drives out fear. We pray... **Amen.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught, from the beginning up until the day he gave the apostles instruction through the Holy Spirit and was taken up into the heavens. After he suffered and died, Jesus showed himself alive to them by ample proof. For forty days, Jesus appeared to them, speaking about the Kingdom of God. While at table with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for what their Loving God had promised. "The promise is what you have heard me speak about," Jesus said, "that John baptized with water; but, in not many days from now, you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit."

When they were all together, they asked Jesus, "Teacher, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom of Israel?" Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that God has set. You will be empowered when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he said this, and as they were watching, Jesus was lifted up and disappeared out of their sight into a cloud. While he was going and they were gazing up toward the heavens, suddenly two people in white robes stood by them. They said, "You of Galilee, why do you stand looking up at the heavens? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into the heavens, will come again in the same way as you have seen him go."

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When the eleven arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. They all joined together constantly in prayer, including the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with Jesus' brothers and sisters.

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

***Thanks be to God.***

**PSALM** Psalm 47:2-3, 6-8, 9-10

Our Psalm Response is:

***Alleluia, sing forever! How wonderful is our God!***

Clap your hands, all you peoples!  
Shout to God with thunderous songs of joy!  
For the Holy One, the Cosmic God, is awesome,  
revealed in the power of Creation. **R.**

God has gone up with a shout,  
the Holy One with the sound of a trumpet!  
Sing praises to God! Sing praises!  
Sing praises to our Creator! Sing praises!  
For the Creator of All is God of the cosmos.  
Sing praises with a psalm. **R.**

God's reign confounds the nations.  
God is over all and in all.  
The leaders of all peoples gather  
as the people of God.  
For the powers of the earth belong to God.  
Soaring over all, the exalted One will prevail. **R.**

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 1:17-23

A Reading from the letter to the Ephesians:

May the God of Jesus the Christ, the Glorious One, give you a spirit of wisdom and insight into what has been revealed, so as to bring you to a full knowledge of God. May God enlighten the eyes of your heart, that you may know the hope to which you are called, that is, the riches of the glorious heritage among God's holy people, and the uncommon and extraordinary transformation worked in those of us who believe. This same divine action was at work in Jesus the Christ. The transforming power of God raised Jesus from the dead and set him in deep heaven as the Cosmic Christ. This universal presence exceeds every principality, ruling force, power and dominion in this age and in every age to come. God put all things in care of the Christ and made Christ the church. The church is Christ's body. Through us, in us, and by us, Christ speaks and acts and fills everything with divine presence.

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

**Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia! Love is Alive!**

Angrisano, Hart, Manibusen

**Alleluia! Love is Alive! Conquered the grave and defeated the night!**  
**Alleluia! Love is Alive! Christ has arisen for all!**  
**The people sing alleluia!**

**Gospel**

Matthew 28:16-20

Our God is with you. **And also with you.**  
A reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew. **Glory to You, O God.**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to where Jesus had arranged with the women to meet them. When they saw him, they fell down before him, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached them and said, "God authorized and told me to commission you. Go, therefore, and make disciples of everyone you meet, far and near. Baptize them in the name of the Creator, and of Jesus the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, instructing them in the practice of the way of life I have lived. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of time."

The Gospel of God.  
**Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.**

**Homily**

Bishop Jane Via, RCWP

## Prayers of the Faithful

In not many days from now, you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit." "You people of San Diego, why are you standing there looking up at the heavens?" In solidarity with all believers who have felt the power of the Spirit ever since the beginning of Easter, let us ask for all that we and the world need.

Our response: ***Spirit of Love, God is with us.***

That we acknowledge, deep within, that through us, in us, and by us the Christ speaks and acts and fills everything with divine presence ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

That instead of looking up to the sky and wondering where God has gone, we look within other human beings and ourselves, and find there the Temple ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

That we join with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and all Jesus' family members, in prayer and in loving service ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

In solidarity with our Muslim members of the human family, who have just completed their Ramadan observance, that all of us who are children of Abraham and the one God may find peace and solidarity despite our differences ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise. May we, the eyes and ears of the cosmos, join the cosmic Alleluia symphony ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

For those who cannot summon themselves to belief and service, and who oppose us when we do ... we pray as Jesus said we should ... ***(Response)***

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Spirit-filled Paschal community of Alleluia and sorrow, remembering as well the universal needs of all people, especially those who have been touched by the pandemic.

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 prayers written in our community prayer book . . . we pray ... ***(Response)***

### **Closing Prayer of the Faithful:**

Incomprehensible Holy Mystery, May our prayers, offered for ourselves, our loved ones, our enemies and the whole universe, enter the Divine Milieu; and may Your tender embrace of our prayers uplift our hearts in this time in-between. We pray in Jesus' name. ***Amen.***

**Offertory Song – Now the Green Blade Riseth**

Crum

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that He would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that arising green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Raised from the dead our risen Christ is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Your touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

**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**

Cosmic Mystery, as we await your spirit anew, we share these gifts of bread and wine as Jesus asked us to do. May this bread sustain us in our time of waiting. May this wine sustain our hope in the possibility of joy despite suffering and loss. We pray in Jesus' name... ***Amen.***

**Eucharistic Prayer<sup>i</sup>**

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. 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 Jesus<sup>ii</sup>**

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.***

<b>Communion Song: <i>By Breath</i></b>	Thomsen
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***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one***

The air that is my breath is the air that you are breathing,  
and the air that is your breath is the air that I am breathing.  
The wind rising in my breast is the wind from the east, from the west,  
from the north, from the south, breathing in, breathing out. ***R***

The water that is my blood, my sweat, tears from crying,  
is the water that is your blood, your sweat, tears from crying,  
and the rising of the tide is in our veins and in the ocean wide.  
We are in the rising steam, rushing river, running stream. ***R***

The fire in my heart, my soul flame burning,  
is the fire in your heart, your soul flame burning.  
We are Spirit burning bright, by the light of day, in the dark of night.  
We are shining like the sun, and like the moon, like the Holy One. ***R***

<b>Prayer After Communion</b>	<i>written by the Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, United Church of Canada</i>
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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 Prayer & Blessing

Holy One, we are living in Ascension Time, the space between resurrection and the coming of Your Divine Spirit within and among us anew. Intensify Your unitive consciousness in our minds and hearts. Awaken us again to the power of Love and Compassion. As Jesus was uplifted in his relationship with You, uplift us that we might receive Your Spirit and be moved to participate in the transformation of all creation.

May God always bless us and keep us.  
May God's face always shine upon us.  
May God look upon us with kindness and fill our hearts with peace.  
**Amen.**

### Sending Forth

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

### Closing Song: God of Wonders

*Hindalong & Byrd*

God of all creation, of water, earth, and sky;  
The heavens are Your tabernacle, glory to our God on high.

**God of wonders, You fill the galaxies, You are holy, holy.  
The universe declares Your majesty; You are holy, holy.  
God of heaven and earth. God of heaven and earth.**

Early in the morning, we will celebrate the light;  
When we stumble in the darkness, we will call Your name by night.

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*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>.*

*Music used with permission OneLicense #A-71188  
Some song lyrics have been adapted to align with our commitment to inclusive language.  
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<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> 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/>