

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



Feast of the Body of Christ – June 14, 2020

Introduction & Welcome

Welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, on the land that the Kumeyaay people have tended for generations. Today we gather from locations all around the world. 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. At the time of the prayers of the faithful, you may either unmute yourself and speak your prayer intention aloud or type your prayer intention in the chat. Despite being muted, 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.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, a reminder not only of the Eucharistic meal that we celebrate together, but of the fact that each of us – and all of humanity – is a part of the Body of Christ. I invite you now to take a breath, a precious breath, before we begin our opening song.

Opening Song – *This Day God gives Me*

Quinn

This day God gives us, Love of God's heaven
Sun and moon shining, Flame in our hearths
Flashing of lightening, Wind in its swiftness
Depths of the ocean, Firmness of earth

This day God sends, Love as our guardian
Hope to uphold us, Wisdom as guide
Your eyes are watching, Your ears are list'ning
Your lips are speaking, Friend at our side

God's way is our way, God's love is 'round us
God's hope defends us, Healing our fear
Spirit of heaven, Stay with us always
Facing the unknown, Stand by us still

Rising we thank you, Gift of your body
Bread of your own flesh, Wine of your blood
Dying and rising, Gift of your healing
Joyful the morning, Gift of your hope

Opening Rite

We begin our liturgy by blessing the name of our God with the sign of our faith:
+ In the name of our one God: Creator, who shares divinity with us, Jesus, who shares humanity with us,
and the Holy Spirit who unsettles and inspires us. **Amen.**

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

Knowing God's Loving Kindness

As we begin our liturgy, we pause to remember those times when we have not loved the Body of Christ
as we are called to do:

Loving God, when we fail to share our bread with others,
Help us to share our bread and offer hospitality to all.

Jesus the Christ, when we fail to recognize you in those who are different from us,
Help us to recognize you in every human being.

Spirit of Wisdom, when we forget that Your word is the bread of life,
Help us to seek Your nourishing Word.

May the God who feeds us, forgive our lack of gratitude, our gluttony and greed, our silence in the face
of injustice and oppression, and help us to live with justice and generosity, in the church and in the
world. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Holy One, you call us all to the table to remember your body – taken, blessed, broken, and given for us
all. United through prayer, we become your body, the very body of Christ. We remember the ways in
which Your body continues to be broken and oppressed throughout the world. Help us to recognize the
sacred in the faces and bodies of one another and make us one with you, and with each other. In your
name, we pray... **Amen.**

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel:

David went down to the Desert of Maon. A wealthy property owner lived there, in Carmel. He had a flock of 300 sheep and 1,000 goats. It was shearing time. The owner's name was Nabal, and his wife was Abigail. Abigail was an intelligent and attractive woman, while Nabal, a Calebite, was surly, mean, and hard to deal with.

Learning that Nabal was shearing, David sent ten younger attendants with friendly greetings, telling them to say, "Long life to you, and good health! When your shepherds were in our land, we were hospitable to them. They wanted for nothing. Ask any of your herders and attendants and they will confirm what we say. And so, please be kind to our workers when they pass through your territory as we were to yours. Please extend to them whatever hospitality you can manage."

David's attendants delivered the message to Nabal. They awaited a response. Nabal answered, "Who is this David? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days! Am I to take my bread, my water, and the meat I slaughter for my shearers and give it to people coming from God-knows-where?"

David's messengers reported back to him what the wealthy herder said. David immediately strapped on his sword, and commanded, "Everyone, strap on your swords!" About 400 went up with David, while 200 stayed back to guard their supplies.

One of Nabal's shearers informed Abigail of the imminent calamity: "David sent messengers with greetings, but Nabal hurled insults in return. Yet David's attendants were very good to us when we had our herds in their land. They even formed a protective wall around us night and day. Please consider the situation. What can we do? It's certain that disaster beckons. Nabal is so stubborn no one can reason with him, even at a time such as this."

Abigail acted quickly. She collected 200 loaves, 2 skins of wine, 5 dressed sheep, 5 measures of roasted grain, 100 raisin cakes, and 200 cakes of dried figs. She loaded them on donkeys. Saying nothing to Nabal, she instructed her attendants, "Go on ahead. I will be right behind you." She did not tell her husband, Nabal.

As she traveled on her donkey, hidden by the hills, David and his company met her on the road. David had just sworn a solemn oath for the evil repaid him for good, "May God do the same to me and more if I leave even one of Nabal's household alive by morning."

But as soon as Abigail spotted David approaching she dismounted and fell at his feet: "Please, sir, blame me, and please allow me, your humble servant, to speak my piece. How can you even take notice of this wretched person? He is the embodiment of the meaning of his name, 'Fool'; and fool he is. I, your handmaid, did not see your young messengers when they arrived... Since God has kept you from bloodshed, avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies all be fools. And let this gift, this table I have laid before you, be for you and all your company."

David accepted the feast she had prepared, and heeded her voice. He said to Abigail, "Blessed be our God, the God of Israel, who today sent you to meet with me. Blessed are you for your good judgement. Blessed are you for saving me today from the guilt of bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hands."

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

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 104:1-2+4, 24+29-30, 31+33-34

Resp. Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes

Our sung response is:

***Let the Spirit rise up, let it break through the walls
And beat down the doors, and crash through the windows
And cover the earth, the earth, the earth, the earth
Let the Spirit rise up, let it break through the walls
And beat down the doors, and crash through the windows
And cover the earth, the earth, the earth, the earth
The earth, the earth, the earth***

God restores what is broken and rebuilds ruins.

God gathers in dispersed children,
healing the broken-hearted,
and binding up wounds.

This God numbers the stars, and names them.

How great is our God! What wisdom beyond measure! **R.**

Sing praise with the harp to the God

Who covers the sky with clouds;

Who supplies Earth with rain;

Who makes grass grow on hills;

Who provides food for animals;

and young ravens what they cry for. **R.**

God does not delight in the strength of the steed,
or the fleetness of humans.

The Holy One delights in those of humble reverence,
those who put their hope in compassion. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

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

Thanks be to God.

Lo! the sacred food is given
 To the pilgrim who has striven
 See the people's bread from heaven
 Sacred off'ring of God's love

Truth the ancient types fulfilling
 Isaac bound a servant willing
 Paschal lamb, its life-blood protecting
 Manna to the father people sent

Very bread, good healer, tend us
 Jesu, of your love befriend us,
 You refresh us, you protect us,
 Your eternal goodness send us

In the land of life to see
 You who all things can and know
 Who on earth such food bestow,
 Grant us with your global fam'ly

Where creations feast you show,
 life of creation to be
 Amen, Alleluia, Amen Alleluia
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

John 6:48, 51 + Matthew 10:5a, 16, 26-31

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

A reading from the Gospels attributed to John and Matthew. ***Glory to You, O God.***

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life...I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." ...

When Jesus sent out the disciples, he warned them....

"Listen. I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves..."

"But do not be afraid. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight. What you hear whispered, proclaim from housetops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one falls to the ground outside God's loving care. Even the very hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

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

Profession of Faith: Pledge for Racial Justiceⁱ

As a community, as the Body of Christ, we join with people of faith and no faith, throughout the world, in committing itself to racial justice. And so we pledge together:

WE SUPPORT justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

WE AFFIRM that white privilege is unfair and harmful to those who have it and to those who do not.

WE AFFIRM that white privilege and the culture of white supremacy in which our nation and our church were founded and developed must be dismantled.

WE SUPPORT racial equity, justice, and liberation for every person.

WE AFFIRM the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Therefore, from this day forward . . .

WE WILL strive daily to understand white privilege and white supremacy and how their existence benefits us.

WE COMMIT to help transform our church culture to one that is actively engaged in seeking racial justice and equity for everyone.

WE WILL make a greater effort to treat all people with the same respect we expect to receive.

WE COMMIT to developing the courage to live my beliefs and values of racial justice and equality.

WE WILL strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from our thoughts and actions so that we can better promote the racial justice efforts of our church.

WE WILL renew and honor this pledge daily, knowing that our church, our community, our nation, and our world will be better places because of our efforts.

Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Last Sunday we reflected on our one God as Creator, as Emmanuel, as Spirit. Today we move to tangibles: the Body, the Blood. We are what we eat: the Body and Blood of Christ. To God, who is all and in all, let us pray!

Our response: God-Mystery, make us bread for the world.

That like Abigail we use our influence and our resources to deflect from violence those who do not, on their own, see an alternative ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

That with David we avoid the guilt of bloodshed, and work as creatively as we know how, to ensure that no more blood is spilled in violence and war ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

That in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, gifts of God's creation, blessed in the name of Jesus, sanctified by the Spirit, we become unified in the one Body ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

In thanksgiving for the immensity and grandeur of the Cosmos, and for the warm greenness of the Earth that sustains us with life-giving bread and wine ... we pray ... **(Response)**

For all those who do not share their bread or their hearts with us, and for the times we have failed to share them with others ... 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 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:ⁱⁱ

Hear, O Church, the wail of Black mothers. Hear, O Nation, the sobs of Black fathers. Hear, O People, in every tongue and language, the desire for life and breath. Hear, O America, the cries of 400 years asking, "How Long?" Hear, the gasp and the cries and weep.

Oh God, guide our steps. Transform our hands, our hearts, our tongues in the ways of justice and peace. Let not a word slip from our lips that would denigrate any of your beloved children.

Kindle in us anger at structures and systems that hold your people down. Make us bold to commit our whole lives to the liberation and healing of all. Reconcile us to one another, and to You.

Heal us, O Great Physician, from the racism of our systems and structures. Banish the viruses that seek to destroy. Equip us for the work that must be done. Strengthen us for the days ahead. Jesus, guard and guide us. Do not let us go until we are done. Come, Holy Spirit, Come. We pray... **Amen.**

Offertory Song – Supper of Our God	Laurence Rosania
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***As we gather, all are one, here in bread and wine;
Here our God prepares the feast divine.
Bread of love is broken now, cup of life is poured:
Come, share the supper of our God.***

This is the bread of God feeding hungry hearts,
Giving life to us, to all the world. **R.**

"I am the living spring of eternal life;
You that drink from me shall not thirst again." **R.**

"I am the bread of life, giving life to you;
You that eat this bread shall never die." **R.**

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.

Pray, friends that our work, our play, our worship, and our lives be acceptable to our God who is Life, Love, Healing, and Justice.

Gathered as community, empower us by Your Spirit.

Prayer with our Gifts

Holy One, we bless the bread given for us in infinite love and grace. We bless the cup poured out for us with a love that drenches and makes us anew. We bless the food that we share, the hands that made it and those who consume it. We bless one another and all people, recognizing in one another and all the world, the manifestation of the Body of Christ. Strengthen us to bear the bread, carry the cup, and lay the table for a hungry world. We pray in Jesus' name... ***Amen.***

Eucharistic Prayerⁱⁱⁱ

God dwells in you.

And also in you.

Let us give thanks to the life-giving Spirit of God.

With hearts burning with love, we give God thanks and praise.

Holy One, at this feast of love you feed your people and strengthen them in holiness, so that the human family, which shares the same earth, may be fueled by faith and drawn together by love. We join together to be transformed by your grace into the likeness of the risen Christ, joining with all those on earth and throughout the heavens in singing this 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.

God of fresh bread and new wine, we sense your presence among us in grace-filled moments of sharing, in carefully created communities of loving solidarity, in holy times of birthing new life amid all the suffering. We delight in the moving of your steadfast Spirit demanding that we find water for the thirsty, demanding that we prepare meals for all who hunger, and encouraging us to welcome all in our midst.

As we share this meal may we be nourished by the dangerous memory of Jesus and his friends, who dared to feed those no one else would feed, who included the 'sinners' that society shunned and oppressed, who drew healing energy out of people past hope of healing, who heard the cries of people dried up and desperate, and nourished them with living water, and life-giving bread.

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

We invoke Your life-giving Spirit upon all who are gathered in solidarity. Let Your Spirit come upon these gifts of bread and wine, transforming them with the nourishing power of holy wisdom, that they and we may become the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ, taken, blessed, broken, and given so that all might have life. We remember that...

All: ... gathering the beloved community around the table of nourishing hope, Jesus took the bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to each and to all, saying:

"Take this, all of you and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me."

[Pause]

After the meal, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and shared the cup with his friends, saying:

"Take this, all of you and drink. This is the cup of my life-blood, the life of the new and everlasting covenant. It is poured out for you and for all. 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.

We gather as a people devoted to creating a world that reflects Your diversity, love and justice. Ignite in us a burning passion for justice for all. We remember those who have suffered from white supremacy, and those who have worked to dismantle it. We remember all your prophets and saints who have dared to speak Truth to power. We remember those who have been murdered in our streets, and those who have taken to the streets to affirm our belief that black bodies are holy, and that black lives matter.

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 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. Come now, Spirit of justice and prophecy, of tenderness, judgment, and dance; touch our speechlessness, kindle our longing, reach into our silence, and fire our words with your truth; that each of us may hear in our own language the amazing works of God:

***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^{iv}

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:

***Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father, Mother, Creator of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes throughout the cosmos!
May the way of Your justice inspire all peoples
And may your kin-dom of peace and freedom flourish on earth
Until all of humanity heeds Your call to justice and compassion.
With the bread we need for today, feed us
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.***

Sign of Peace

May the peace of the 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.***

We are God’s body, made one in the Spirit.
We are blessed to share in this communion.

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.***

*We remember how you loved us to your death,
And still we celebrate, for you are with us here;
And we believe that we will see you when you come,
In your glo-ry, we remember, we celebrate, we believe.*

Here, a million wounded souls
Are yearning just to touch you and be healed;
Gather all your people, and hold them to your heart. **R.**

Now we recreate your love
We bring the bread and wine to share a meal;
Sign of grace and mercy, the presence of our God. **R.**

See the face of Christ revealed
In ev'ry person standing by your side;
Gift to one another, and temples of your love. **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 Blessing^v

May God bless us with a *restless discomfort* at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with the gift of tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Let the Church say... ***Amen.***

Sending Forth

Our mass has ended, our service continues.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Song: I am the Bread of Life

Talbot

***I am the Bread of Life
All who eat this Bread will never die
I am God's love revealed
I am broken that you might be healed***

All who eat of this heavenly Bread
All who drink this cup of the covenant
You will live forever for I will raise you up ***R.***

No one who comes to Me shall ever hunger again
No one who believes shall ever die
All that the Holy draws shall come to Me
And I shall give them rest. ***R.***

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 Pledge for Racial Justice is adapted from the “Racial Equity Pledge” by First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas and the version used by St. Francis Xavier in New York, NY in their Service of Lamentation, Rage, and Hope. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kn-pM3biTeGB39rMOmRjlxOsKMRhW1rz>

ⁱⁱ “Our Siblings’ Blood is Crying Out:” A Call to Listen & Action, Friday May 29, 2020, Statement from the Massachusetts Council of Churches Executive Director Rev. Laura Everett & President Rev. Jennie Barrett Siegel, <https://www.masscouncilofchurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020.05.29-MCC-statement-22Our-Siblings-Blood22.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Our Eucharistic Prayer draws inspiration from many sources, including past MMACC liturgies (written by Nancy Corran, Kori Pacyniak, Joe Stewart, Jane Via & MMACC’s liturgy committee), and other sources.

^{iv} The “Prayer of Jesus” or “Lord’s Prayer” has been translated and rendered in many ways throughout the centuries. This version is an adaptation by Kori Pacyniak of versions by John Maynard and *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (Harper Collins, 1997) taken from <http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=360>

^v Adapted from “Franciscan Blessing” <https://aheartforjustice.com/2010/10/07/a-franciscan-blessing-may-god-bless-you-with-discomfort-anger-tears-and-foolishness/>