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Irene Thomas, "The Communion of Saints"

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time & Observance of All Saints & All Souls October 29, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

GONG

Good evening. Welcome to Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, on the land that the Kumeyaay people have tended for generations. My name is ..., one of your lectors this evening. Nancy Corran is our homilist and online presider. Jane Via is our in-person presider. Suzie Knapp is our deacon. We are a hybrid community, gathering in person and online. 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 those online, you can find the worship aid at mmacc.org. You may wish to have some wine and bread nearby, or something similar, for communion. After our liturgy concludes, we invite you to join in breakout rooms for some social time.

We'd also like to welcome any visitors with us today. For those on Zoom, please feel free to introduce yourselves on chat. For those visitors in person, if you feel comfortable, please stand and introduce yourselves and tell us where you are from.

If in-person visitors are present, please read the following paragraph:

Our communal spoken responses are in the Assembly Worship Aid. The songs are on the white song sheet inserted in the Worship Aid.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The community voted 31-5 in favor of starting Mass at 4pm during the upcoming winter months. Beginning **November 5th**, when Daylight Saving's Time ends, Mass will begin at 4pm. We will try out this new start time until Daylight Savings Time begins again on March 10, 2024.
- Nominations for next year's Community Leadership Council are open for one more week, until Nov 5! Forms are available through a link in our weekly online bulletin or through the website in the Members section. Please consider whom you might nominate, including yourself, for this important servant leadership position. The meetings are once a month online, so you can serve from anywhere!
- It's Christmas time again! MMACC will be doing a Christmas gift project for the Ebenezer orphanage in Tijuana Mexico this year sponsored by Corazon de Vida. There are 20 children (orphans), 3 special needs young adults, and 7 staff. Gifts can be purchased online and sent to George Perez at Corazon de Vida--all done right from home. See Carol Kramer and Sima who have names and directions for selecting one or more recipients. For those on Zoom call Carol for a name and she can email you information and instructions. All gifts need to be to George by Dec 10th. Thank you, thank you. (858-382-5432).
- Save the Date: Jane will lead a Zoom discussion on the movie, "Barbie", on **Thursday**, November 9th at 7pm.
- Save the Date: On Sunday, November 26th, after liturgy, a Palestinian, Catholic couple, the Zoughbis, will share their experience of Palestinian life in Israel. The Zoughbis often host U.S. Christians in their home and have hosted Rev. Karla in the past. They have been in the U.S. before October 7th. Before their presentation, we will have a brief break and share some simple snacks. As we open our minds to different experiences and points of view, we acknowledge the intergenerational trauma both Jews and Palestinians are experiencing at this time of profound loss of innocent civilians among both peoples.
- Please see our bulletin for other community news and announcements.
- Donations to MMACC are appreciated. In-person donations can be placed in the basket on the welcome table.

Our liturgy this evening celebrates the feast days of All Saints and All Souls. We remember all who have died:

We remember those who have died in the Name of Love, Peace, and Justice; we remember the innocent who have died in gun-violence, hate crimes, and the brutality of power-quests;

we remember those who have been killed in war;

we remember those who have died in disasters, both natural and human-made;

we remember those whom **we** have loved and lost, who remain dear.

We celebrate the communion of saints, all God's holy people throughout time.

Towards the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, there will be a time to speak aloud the names of your deceased loved ones. For those online, you may unmute yourselves at that time, or type the names in the chat.

Now, let us take a moment to remember our cloud of witnesses and center ourselves in the presence of the Holy as we begin our liturgy.

GONG

Opening Song – "How Can I Keep from Singing"

Gutfreund

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation. I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I am clinging. Since love is all in heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing. It sounds and echoes in my soul; how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest 'round me roar, I hear the truth, it liveth; What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.

Opening Rite

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

+ In the name of God who is Life; Jesus, who shows us how to live and die;

And the Holy Spirit, who raises us up in this life and the next. **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

Presider: As we begin, we call to mind all the suffering in our world at this time...

God of All, we lament our neglect of your commandment to love, clinging to our warring ways,

God, have mercy.

Jesus the Christ, we lament our violence, or condoning violence, especially towards the most vulnerable of God's children.

Christ, have mercy.

Sacred Spirit, we lament our despair, our lack of trust that You can transform even death into life.

Sophia Spirit, guide us into new life.

God who is Life, open our eyes to Your people. Open our minds to Your way. Open our hearts to Your peace. Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, empower us, somehow, to transform our world into Your holy kin-dom. *Amen*.

Opening Prayer

Holy One, You have gathered us, Your holy ones, in this moment. You gather into Yourself Your holy ones who have passed through death. May we hear Your Word of comfort and hope that transcends time and space. May we hear Your Wisdom to challenge and inspire us to be Your comfort and hope in time and space, we pray...

First Reading Revelation 7:9-14

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Healing and wholeness come from God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb." All the angels, the messengers of God, were gathered around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshipping God and saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power and strength be to our God, forever and ever! Amen!" Then one of the elders spoke to me, saying, "Who are those wearing white robes, and where did they come from? I said in response, "You are the one who knows." The elder said, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress. They have washed their robes and made them gleam in the blood of the Lamb."

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

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 24:1-7, Merrill, adapted; Sung Response, Joncas

Our psalm response will be sung: I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have called you and you are mine.

The earth is Yours, O Giver of Life,
in all its fullness and glory;
the world and all those who dwell therein
belong to You!
You have founded land, settling it upon the seas,
You have called forth the human family,
settling them along the rivers.

I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine.

Who shall ascend Your hill, O Gracious One? and who shall stand in Your holy place? All whose hands have known service, and whose hearts are true; All who do not hold fast to what is false, nor make vows deceitfully.

I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have called you and you are mine.

All these will be blessed by the Heart of Love, and renewed through forgiveness.

Such is the promise to those who seek Love's face.

So, lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, You ancient doors.

That Your holy ones may enter in.

I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine.

Second Reading – Hebrews 12:1-3

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every burden, and distractions that so easily entangle us, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, fixing our gaze on Jesus, the pioneer of our faith who saw it through to completion. For the sake of the joy that was set before him, Jesus endured the cross, disregarding its shame and is now seated with God in cosmic glory. Consider the one who endured such opposition, so that you may not grow weary in your souls and lose heart.

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

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia; Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a (rendered by Rod Stephens, 2011)

Our God is with you. And also with you.

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew. Glory to you, O God.

Jesus sat down with the people and began to teach them:

Blessed are all who have poverty of spirit,

Who proclaim heaven in their need.

Blessed are all who mourn,

And those who offer hope and comfort to the mournful.

Blessed are all who live in meekness

it is their strength and the inheritance of peace.

Blessed are all who hunger and thirst for what is good and just.

It is our hunger and thirst that will call the world in peace.

Blessed are all who live in compassion.

It grows and nourishes all.

Blessed are all whose hearts are untarnished by fear.

God is revealed in them.

Blessed are all who live in peace;

they are servants of the Holy One.

Blessed are all who, when encountering fear and hate, proclaim heaven with a response of love.

Blessed are all who stand facing pain, loss, and war;

They are recognized as whole and holy.

Let us rejoice! Be glad! Have hope and peace.

These are all the rewards we need!

The Good News of God's Love.

Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.

Homily - Nancy

Offertory Song - Litany of Saints

Theresa Donohoo, Gary Daigle, Rory Cooney

Holy Guardian Angels... R] Pray for us.

Sarah and Abraham...

Hagar and Ishmael...

Rebekah and Isaac...

Jacob, Leah, and Rachel...

Bilhah and Zilpah...

Oh, how I want to be in that number, When the saints go marching in.

Moses and Miriam... R] Pray for us.

Aaron and Elizabeth...

Ruth and Esther...

David and Bathsheba...

Huldah and Rizpah...

All Forebears and Prophets...

Oh, how I want to be in that number, When the saints go marching in.

Saints Joachim and Ann... R] Pray for us.

Zechariah and Elizabeth...

Saints Mary and Joseph...

John the Baptist...

Simeon and Anna...

Saint Mary Magdalene...

Oh, how I want to be in that number When the saints go marching in.

REFRAIN:

When the saints, go marching in, oh when the saints go marching in. How I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.

Saints Peter and Paul... R] Pray for us.

Writers of the Gospels...

Prisca and Aquila...

Katherine and Agnes...

Monica Augustine...

Scholastica and Benedict...

Oh, how I want to be in that number, When the saints go marching in.

Saints Patrick and Brigid... R] Pray for us.

Master Eckhart and Hildegard...

Saint Joan of Arc...

Sanit Vincent de Paul...

Ignatius of Loyola...

Kateri Tekakwitha...

Oh, how I want to be in that number,

When the saints go marching in.

REFRAIN:

When the saints, go marching in...

Saint Thomas Moore... **R**] *Pray for us.*

Elizabeth Seton...

Mother Cabrini...

Sojourner Truth...

Blessed Edith Stein...

Dorothy Day and Tom Dooley....

Oh, how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in

Pope John the XXIII... **R] Pray for us.**

Corita and Rosa...

Malcolm and Martin...

Mother Theresa...

Oscar Romero...

All innocents in war...

Oh, how I want to be in that number,

when the saints go marching in

REFRAIN:

When the saints, go marching in...

Instrumental: Seek Ye First.... as gifts brought forward

Preparation of the Bread & Wine

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, fruit of the earth and work of human hands. It will become for us the bread of life, sustaining us in our hunger.

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 for us our spiritual drink, sustaining us in our thirst.

Blessed be God forever.

Pray that sharing this bread and wine will enlarge our hearts and our souls to welcome and share with others more fully.

Transform us, God, we pray.

Prayer with our Gifts

Holy God, Even and especially amid deeply troubling times, you invite us to this table, this simple meal. May we know Your holy comfort, Your strength, and Your divine joy, we pray.... **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Presider

God of All, We gather in Your presence to give you thanks for all Creation and for all your holy people through time and in our lives.

Voice 1

We give thanks and celebrate remarkable souls who made history and made it better. We celebrate the saints in our own lives, family and friends, who make up our histories and make us better. We celebrate unsung souls who have changed history, and our lives for the better in ways we can only imagine. And so we join our voices with those in every generation in singing our unending song of praise:

Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, O God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are all who come in Your Name, Holy God. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Voice 2

We offer these gifts as an expression of our longing for communion with one another, with Your holy ones throughout time, and with all Creation. We offer these gifts for those who are poor and powerless. We offer these gifts for those whom the church casts out. We offer these gifts for those who suffer. We offer these gifts for the healing of Earth. Strengthen us to work for the well-being of all.

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

Presider

Holy One, we recognize Your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and wine, and in us. 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 blood. Do this in memory of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

[Sung – Tompkins]

We remember you. We remember you. Jesus who loved, lived, and died, rising in our hearts.

Voice 3

In Jesus, You teach us how to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You. In Christ, You reveal Life which transcends death.

Voice 4

We commit ourselves to allow Your Spirit of generous love that took flesh in Jesus, to take root in our lives. Open our hearts to Your Sacred Spirit in all.

Voice 5

Your sacredness is present in the pain and the joy that we experience on our journey through life. Be with all who are sick and all who suffer. We remember especially those killed by gun violence, war, and hate. Be with all those who have died and gone before us into the fullness of union with You.

Presider

Let us hold in memory eternal all our departed MMACC companions and all those in our lives whom we have loved and lost, who remain in the great cloud of witnesses. We invite you to speak any name written in the list in the worship aid, or that of anyone whose name is written on your heart. For those online, you may unmute yourselves or type the names into the chat as we now pray the names aloud, all together, of our loved ones:

Mary Cherry Kathleen Dugan *loe Wiedower* Kathy Dunlap Evie McGreevey Doug Jones Edie Hunt Ed Mansfield *lackie Fix* Calvin Wilder Terry Grace Bill Graney Sister Rachel Daniels Billy Pearsley *Irene Lawrence-Conrady* Mary Tompkins Lee Mongrue Dan Dinan Tina DiStefano Hugh Kramer Fred Spong Yvonne Silva Berberet Sister Maureen Kegan Tom Conrady Rav Phoenix Al O'Brien Mike Magee Tom Popeney Arlene Coulon Iosie Herrera

Luis Morones Bob Morris

In life and in death, O God, we belong to You.

Presider

Gather all your people through every age, of every gender, race, language, religion, and way of life to share in Your one, eternal banquet. Then, in Your presence, we shall give You glory with all creation and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows:

Through Christ, may all creation be renewed.
With Christ, may our lives be transformed.
In Christ, may all divisions be healed.
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours forever and ever.

The Great Amen [sung]

Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan

Prayer of Jesus

Music: Bethel, lyrics adapted

The prayer often called the "Our Father" has been translated and rendered in many ways over the last 2,000 years. We invite you join us in this contemporary sung version.

Be-lov-ed, Cre-a-tor, Holy be Your Name. Your kin-dom, come through us Your heart's de-sire be done On Earth and through-out the Cosmos (Your cosmic glory) We are Your hands, Your heaven is in our hands.

Pro-vide bread, for each day, to share with all on Earth. Forgive us, as we do forgive those who hurt us. And lead us in Your good pathways (your ways are good) And keep us from evil, protect us, we'll pro-tect Yours.

Ours is the kin-dom, Love is the Power, Yours is the glory, forever amen. Ours is the kin-dom, Love is the Power, Yours is the glory, forever amen. Let heaven come...

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

Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan

Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of hope, O Jesus, O Jesus, the Christ. Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of love, O Jesus, O Jesus, the Christ. Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of peace, grant us, grant us peace.

We are the body of Christ, called to serve God in creation and one another. We are happy and blessed to share in this service.

This is God's table, not ours; all are truly welcome to receive the gluten free eucharistic bread, and consecrated red wine or white grape juice. Christ is present with us whenever and wherever we are. May all who share with us in this communion be united with us in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. *Amen.*

Communion Song – "Saints and Beloved of God"

Dan Schutte

In every place and time, the blessed walk among us There's a mighty throng that stands at our side, The saints and belov'd of God.

We are joined by a great communion, here on earth and in heav'n above, for this feast prepared by Christ our Friend, companions in Christ's love. (R)

We are stirred by their faithful witness to the God who takes flesh and bone, to the Christ who lives in hands and hearts in faces yet unknown. (R)

We give thanks for your servants past who have taught us to know Your ways, We are proud to keep their names, O God, In memory all our days. (R)

They will greet us with great rejoicing at the dawn of endless day, When we're home at last by heaven's hearth Where pilgrims come to stay. (R)

Prayer After Communion

Holy One, In this meal, we have known the communion of saints; we have communed with "saints and beloved of God", companions past and present, all here. We give thanks. May the bread and wine we have shared empower us to live beatitude lives; may we know blessedness when our very lives become a blessing, we pray...

Closing Blessing

May we be strengthened by the spiritual presence of our deceased beloved... Let the church say... **Amen.**

May we lay aside the fears that keep us from running our race... Let the church say... *Amen*.

May we know the sacred in both our grief and in our rejoicing... Let church say... *Amen*.

And may we trust that, one day, with all the saints who have passed through life, through death, and into new Life, we will join in cosmic glory...

Let the church say.... *Amen*.

Sending Forth

The mass has ended. Our service begins.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Song – We Shall Rise Again

Young

Come to me, all you weary, with your burdens and pain Take my yoke on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and your soul will find rest For my yoke easy, and my burden is light.

We shall rise again on the last day, With the faithful rich and poor, Coming to the house of our God in love, We will find an open door, Yes, we will find an open door.

Though we walk through the darkness, evil we do not fear You are walking beside us with your rod and your staff Only goodness and kindness follow us all our lives We shall dwell in our God's house for so many years to come!

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

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. We seek to support a full-time paid pastor or equivalent and a variety of social justice activities, giving a percentage of our Sunday offering back to the community.

To support our community, please visit http://www.mmacc.org/donate

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