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Night landscape, palm trees, the Red Sea against the background of the night sky with stars and the milky way. Sinai peninsula. (vecteezy.com)

Cosmic Vision, Emerging Dance

**PALM SUNDAY
March 24, 2024**

Welcome & Announcements

GONG

Good evening. Welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, on the land that the Kumeyaay people have tended for generations. My name is Ron, one of your lectors this evening. Suzie Knapp is our in-person presider and homilist. Jane Via is co-presiding in person, and Nancy Corran is our online presider. Today we gather in person and online as we celebrate Palm Sunday, our journey through Lent reaching its final days. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are.

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, we invite you to stand and introduce yourselves and tell us where you are from.

If there are visitors, please indicate that the flow of the liturgy is in the worship aid booklet, and the songs are in the inserted white sheet.

For those of you joining us online, we invite you to join in our songs and communal responses in the worship aid located at mmacc.org. The link is also in the chat. Prayer requests may be offered in the chat at any time. You may wish to have bread and wine or something similar with you to share in our communion. After our liturgy concludes, we invite our online participants to join in breakout rooms for some social time.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- To honor the quieter, thoughtful mood of Lent, during the sign of the peace, you will be invited to remain at your seat and offer a silent gesture of peace to those around you. We also ask that, at the close of Liturgy, just during Lent, we refrain from applause to help us carry the reflective tone of the season with us as we depart.
- Please join our Triduum Services this week! The are: Holy Thursday at 7pm, Good Friday at 12Noon, and the Easter Vigil on SATURDAY at 7pm. We will have no Mass on Easter Sunday.
- Our Palm Procession this evening will begin and end in the chapel. As we begin to sing the opening song, we will circumambulate the chapel, exiting outside through the sacristy doors and then re-entering through the narthex doors. The procession will be led by our other lector, Carol Spong, carrying the Gospel Book.
- Please see our bulletin for other community news and events.
- Donations may be placed in the basket outside the chapel doors.

GONG

~ OPENING RITES ~

Blessing of the Palms

After the announcements, the Presider invites all to stand for the blessing of our palms and begins:

Suzie: Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. We now gather to ritually remember Jesus' arrival in ancient Jerusalem.

Jane: We remember these events with hindsight as to their meaning and with knowledge of the events to come. In all of it, we seek blessing.

Nancy: We ask the Spirit of Life, which is Life, to bless these branches and make them holy as we joyfully acclaim Jesus as our Messiah.

Suzie: Bless us who receive these branches. Bless the homes to which we carry these palms. Bless us as we remember Jesus' journey from triumph, to the cross, through death, to new life.

Opening Words from Scripture

Lector 1:

I will not die, but live, and sing the wonders of God.

Open the gates of justice! I will enter and give thanks.

This is the threshold of Life. All who know Love enter in.

Listen! Shouts of joy and songs of victory resound in the tents of the just.

Lector 2:

"Hosanna to the Chosen One,

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Love.

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Lector 1:

Let us all shout, "Hosanna in the Highest."

Lector raises hand to signal that community joins in.

Assembly:

Hosanna in the Highest! X3

Palm Procession with opening song: With Gospel Book, lector #2 leads the procession, exits through the sacristy door, walks along the pavement in front of the glass doors, then re-enters the chapel through the narthex.

Those in-person who are able and would like to process, will process out the sacristy door, walk on the pavement behind the glass doors, and then re-enter the chapel through the narthex. Those online can wave your palms so all can see.

***Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!***

God, we lift up Your name
with hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh God, our God!
Hosanna in the highest!

Greeting

We continue our liturgy with the sign of our faith.

+ In the name of God who shared divinity with us, Jesus who shares humanity with us, and the Holy Spirit who unsettles and inspires us...we pray, ***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.***

Kyrie

Presider: *As we begin, we call to mind those times we did not recognize, honor, or bless those who came in Your Holy Name, who came in the name of Love.*

Ever-Present God, when we are reluctant to enter wilderness places, afraid to confront our true selves,

R: Awaken us to Your Vision; Teach us Your Dance.

Jesus the Christ, when our hunger for power, wealth, status, and personal security is greater than our hunger for living as you lived,

R: Awaken us to Your Vision; Teach us Your Dance.

Life-giving Spirit, when we do not trust that our gifts are life for the world,

R: Awaken us to Your Vision; Teach us Your Dance.

Holy Love, as we journey through Lent, examining ourselves, our human condition, our earthly life, and our place in the Cosmos, awaken us to Your vision, teach us Your dance, we pray... **Amen.**

Opening Prayer¹

Presider:

At the start of Holy Week, we focus on Jesus, human like us.

Someone dedicated to servant leadership.

A person of extraordinary courage, willing to die for what he believed.

Someone who had to trust that those who came after would keep his mission alive.

May we be true disciples of Jesus,

turning our hearts and actions to his message,

to his ardent desire for a better world,

*striving to bring about God's kin-dom of justice, love, and peace... **Amen***

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

First Reading

1 Kings 1:28-30, 32-35, 38-40

A Reading from the First Book of Kings

David, the King of Israel, called for Bathsheba, his wife. David had killed Bathsheba's husband so that he could take her as his own wife. Bathsheba came to David and stood before him. David swore an oath before her, saying, "As God lives - the God who saved my life from every adversity - and as I swore to you by the God of Israel, your son Solomon shall succeed me as ruler. He shall sit on my throne in my place. This, I will do today."

David then said, "Summon to me the priest and the prophet, Nathan...." When they came, David said: "Take with you some of my servants. Have Bathsheba's son, Solomon, ride on my own mule to the river. Let the priest and the prophet anoint him ruler of Israel. Blow the trumpet, and say, 'Long live Solomon!' Then, follow him up to the city. Let him enter and sit on my throne. He shall rule in my place. I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah."

So, the priest, the prophet, and the dignitaries had Solomon ride on David's mule and led him to the river. There the priest took oil and anointed Solomon. They blew the trumpet, and all the people cried, "Long live Solomon!"

¹ The Opening Prayer, Concluding POF Prayer, Prayer with our Gifts, and Concluding Prayer are adapted from the words of Michael Morwood.

All the people went up to the city following him, playing on pipes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth quaked at their noise.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Our Psalm Response will be sung:

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Come behold the works of the Beloved,
How love does reign even in humanity's desolation.
For the Beloved makes wars to cease,
Breaking through the barriers of fear,
Shattering the greedy and oppressors,
Refining hearts of iron!

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

"Be still and know that I am Love.

I am exalted among the peoples.

I am exalted in the earth!"

The One who knows all hearts is with us;

The Beloved is our refuge and our strength.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A Hymn quoted in Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Jesus, the Anointed One, divine in his humanity,
did not think of himself as god.
Rather, he poured himself out as a servant to all,
manifesting the fullness of humanity,
which reflects the image of God.

Instead of seeking glory,
Jesus humbled himself,
accepting death, even death on a cross.
Therefore God raised him up.

In the arms of the Holy One,
Jesus was given a holy name,
so that at the name of Jesus
homage would be paid,
and tongues would profess
that Jesus is the Anointed One,
the One who reveals the glory of our loving God
in life and in death.

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

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of St Ann

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ, Everlasting Wisdom!

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ, Everlasting Wisdom!

Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

God is with you.

And also with you.

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Mark

Glory to You, O God.

When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with instructions, "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you will find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'Our leader needs it and will return it promptly.'" So, off they went and found the young mule outside in the street, tethered beside a door. As they were untying it, some bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying that foal?" They answered as Jesus had told them and were allowed to take it. They brought the young mule to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it. He sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting:

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

Blessed is the coming reign of

the ancestral house of David and Bathsheba.

Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem. He went into the Temple and looked around at everything; but it was already late, so he went back to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gospel of God.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Homily

Suzie Knapp

Prayers of the Faithful 03-24-2024

Palm Sunday

Story echoing story, first Solomon and then Jesus ride to the holy place to be acclaimed as the awaited and Anointed One. As we begin the renewal of our Passover journey in faith, let us ask for everything that we and all creation need.

Our response: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

That with the crowds around Jesus we refuse to keep silent, crying out for justice and peace in our time ... we pray ...

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

That with Solomon and Jesus we might also be anointed for service, and be raised up in the arms of the Holy One, beyond all our doubts and limitations ... we pray ...

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

That we, like Jesus, might manifest divinity through our embrace of the fullness of humanity in all our diversity, images of the One who is all in all ... we pray ...

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

In thanksgiving for the spring warmth and deep-down greenness of this fragile planet, caressed and raised up by unimaginable Love within the immensity of the cosmos ... we pray ...

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

The Earth contains the dust of countless generations of our ancestors, as well as the blood of Jesus and of our contemporaries killed in war. May this God-beloved Earth become for them and for us the garden of resurrection and new life ... we pray ...

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

For those who do not trust in the promise of resurrection, and who deny the possibility of new life and hope... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Paschal community of transformative joy and sorrow. We remember the universal needs of all living beings, surrounded by war, injustice, and violence, as well as by all-embracing Beauty and Love.

All who wish to share a prayer here in person, please come forward to the microphone. All who wish to share a prayer online, please raise your physical or digital hand and you will be called on in turn, or type your prayer in the chat and these will be read aloud.

We ask that your prayers be brief petitions, and in consideration of our diversity of perspectives, remembering the universal needs of all people.

[After each petition:]

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

[After all petitions have been spoken:]

We also lift up all those living with illness, injury, loss, and suffering, those who have gone home to the Holy One, and all the prayers here today that have remained unspoken, deep in the silence of our hearts...

(Short pause)

For these intentions and for all the prayers remaining in the chat and in our community prayer book ... we pray ...

All: Let us pour ourselves out as servants to all.

Concluding Prayer:

*Holy One, Hear our heartfelt prayers as we begin the journey to the Cross with Jesus. May we have the humility and resolve to serve others in whatever way we can, following the example and mission of Jesus, we pray... **Amen.***

Offertory Song – “In these Days of Lenten Journey”

<i>Manalo</i>

In these days of Lenten journey, we have seen, and we have heard the call to sow justice in the lives of those we serve.

We open our ears to the weary and hear the cry of the poor.
To the voices that echo the song of despair
we will show our compassion and care. **R**

We call on the spirit of justice and pray for righteousness' sake.
We will sing for the freedom of all the oppressed;
we will loosen the bonds of distress. **R**

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

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 that our offering is one that God desires.

We are gathered in Your name. Be with us in our midst.

Prayer with Our Gifts

Sacred Mystery, Jesus invited his friends to eat and drink as a sign of their readiness to keep his memory alive – to give their all for what he believed and taught. May our eating and drinking, embody our commitment to follow where Jesus dared to journey. A journey of love, humility, and courage, celebrating your kin-dom, despite the cost, 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

Holy are You, God of creation. At your word, all creation came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, stars, the planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home. From the primal elements, You brought forth human beings and blessed us to participate in Your ongoing web of life.

Voice 1

From the beginning, our destinies have always been wrapped up in one another - our individual well-being bound to the well-being of all. And so, with all those across generations, we join our voices in singing Your unending praise:

Sanctus

Mass of St Ann

***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, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Voice 2

In Jesus, we learn how to serve others, even strangers and enemies. He sought the collective well-being of all. He befriended those in need of community. He challenged the structures that divide and separate us.

Voice 3

The Spirit that worked through Jesus works through us. The Spirit of courage that kept Jesus proclaiming love even in the face of death can live in us.

(Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.)

Presider

Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us the Body of Christ, that we might be the body of Christ in the world. We remember that...

All:

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying:

"This is my body. Do this in memory of me."

[Pause]

In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine.

He gave You thanks, and gave the cup to his friends, saying:

"Take this all of you and drink. This is my life-blood; the cup of Love.

Do this in memory of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: *[Sung]*

Mass of St Ann

***We proclaim your death, O Christ, and profess your Resurrection
until you come again, until you come again.***

Voice 4

In the sacred season of Lent, may we experience anew Your call to forgiveness, transformation, and new life.

Voice 5

Rend our hearts for the healing of the world. Open our hearts to know Your sacred worth in all whom we meet. As we feast at your table, fill our hearts with the longing to follow Jesus.

Voice 6

Enable us to bring about a world where justice reigns and love flourishes. May we also hold our leaders, secular and religious, accountable to this difficult work.

Presider

We remember everyone who has touched our lives with the Spirit of Your love. We remember all who are sick and all who suffer. We remember all who have died and gone before us into the fullness of cosmic life with You.

Gather together people of every gender, race, language, religion and way of life to share in Your one unending banquet. In Your presence, we give You glory with all creation and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows.

*Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ,
In the unity of Sophia Spirit,
may all glory and honor be Yours, forever and ever:*

The Great Amen

Mass of St Ann

A-men, a-men, a-men. A-men, a-men, a-men.

~ COMMUNION RITE ~

Prayer of Jesus

Rendered by Unknown

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 spoken contemporary version:

*Loving God, in whom is heaven.
May Your Name be honored everywhere.
May Your kin-dom come,
May the desire of Your heart for the world be done,
In us, by us and through us.
Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For You reign in the power that comes from love
which is Your glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

Sign of Peace

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another – and the whole world – a quiet sign of Christ's peace.

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

This is God's holy bread and wine for the transformation of God's holy people.

All: We are blessed to share in this sacred meal.

All are welcome to receive the gluten free eucharistic bread and the consecrated red wine or white grape juice. Whenever and wherever we gather, we are the church and God is with us. May all who share in this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. Amen.

Communion Song "We Remember"*Marty Haugen*

***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 glory –
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 re-create 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 every person standing by your side,
Gift to one another, and temples of your love. **(R)**

Prayer After Communion

Presider:

Loving God, may the Gospel message and the meal we shared sustain us as we witness the events of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection this week. May we not be afraid to live a life of service, announcing your kin-dom of justice, love, and peace even when it's difficult to bear, we pray... Amen.

Closing Blessing*adapted from Jan Richardson*

*Blessed is the One
who comes to us
by the way of love
poured out with abandon. Let the church say...*

*Blessed is the One
who walks toward us
by the way of grace
that holds us fast. Let the church say...*

*Blessed is the One
who calls us to follow
in the way of blessing
in the path of joy. Let the church say...*

*May we live the blessing of humble service this week as we journey with Jesus to the cross
and tomb... Let the church say...*

Sending Forth

This Mass has ended. Holy Week begins.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Song - "Be Not Afraid"

Dufford

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

***Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come, follow me. And I will give you rest.***

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the darkest night and death is at your side,
Know that I am with you through it all. **(R)**

Blessed are your poor, for God's reign shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.
And if people do insult and hate you all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you. **(R)**

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

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we embrace 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 provide a full-time paid living wage for a woman priest (currently shared among our three co-pastors) as well as a variety of social justice activities. We give a percentage of our Sunday offering each quarter of the year to a community nonprofit organization whose work furthers our shared values. To participate in the work of our MMACC community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>.

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