



*Making Catholicism Relevant... Living the change we envision...
Restoring women's ordination...*



St Mary Magdalene, Iconographer Michael Kapeluck

**Worship Aid
Feast Day of Mary Magdalene & Pride Liturgy
July 20, 2025**

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 and.... are our in-person presiders. We are a hybrid community, gathering in person and online for this Feast Day of our Patron Saint, Mary Magdalene and the culmination of San Diego's Pride week. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are.

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 are invited to stay online for some social time.

We welcome our guest speaker, Luz Baez-Tackett, who will share her reflections with us for tonight's Mary Magdalene Feast Day and Pride Liturgy.

Invite Jane forward to Introduce Luz Baez-Tackett...



Luz Baez-Tackett attends and serves as Greeter and Eucharistic Minister at Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community. She participates in Centering Prayer, attends retreats and participates in small group and independent scripture study. She enjoys exploring the evolution of Sophia Wisdom through reading, studying and sharing with those of like-mind and heart.

She enjoys traveling with family and friends and spending time in nature in the interconnected interrelated web of creation. Luz is a contemplative poet at heart."

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.

[Pause for introductions]

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A cake and coffee reception will follow today's special liturgy.
- Donations to MMACC are appreciated. In-person donations can be placed in the basket on the welcome table. Online donations can be made through the donation tab on our web-site.
- Please see our bulletin for other community news.
- Let us take a prayerful moment as we begin our liturgy.

GONG

[moment of silence]

Legend of the Egg

Read before the Opening Song

The many legends of Mary of Magdala excite our spiritual imagination. They seek to fill in the gaps we sometimes feel at the sparse historical knowledge of this literally, and figuratively, iconic woman. We wonder at these legends and the symbols that accompany them.

Legends of Mary Magdalene and the Egg vary. One legend tells that Mary Magdalene's travels took her to Rome, where she was able to obtain an audience with the Roman Emperor, Tiberius Caesar.

Everyone visiting the Emperor was supposed to bring him a gift, according to their means. Mary Magdalene took an egg. An egg was recognized across the Roman world as a symbol of rebirth and life emerging from a closed chamber. For those who followed Christ, it also became symbolic of the sealed tomb from which new life emerged. Mary presented it to Tiberius Caesar with the greeting: "Christ is risen!"

Tiberius Caesar, naturally, could not believe what he heard and responded to her: "How could anyone ever rise from the dead? It is as impossible as that white egg turning red." While Tiberius was speaking these words, the egg in the hand of Mary Magdalene began changing color until it became blood red.

Mary Magdalene went on to explain to Tiberius Caesar that the now-red egg symbolized Jesus' rising from the tomb: From Jesus' suffering, blood-shed, and death, new life was born.

Please stand as able as we sing our opening song.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Song – "Hymn of Vision"

Tune: Nettleton; Words Rosanna Eller McFadden, adapted by RCWP Jackie Clarys

Pilgrims come and claim a vision and give witness in this place.
Joined in faith by our decision to embody lives of grace.
Jesus' follow'ers praying, giving, seeking wholeness in God's word,
Until justice is accomplished and each voice can now be heard.

In a world of fear and danger, our anxieties release.
May we meet both friend and stranger with a ministry of peace.
To the Spirit we surrender, put our trust in God alone.
And our ego and agenda in humility lay down.

When we recognize God's glory shining in diversity,
We will see that each one's story shapes our whole identity.
Love, in ever-widening circles, knows not gender, creed or race;
but it holds us - (all God's people)* like a parent's warm embrace.

Praise and thanks to our Creator for the goodness of the Earth:
Air and water, field and flower, all the creatures and their worth.
In your vineyard let us nourish, tend the good gifts in our care.
Let the fruit of justice flourish for our neighbors everywhere!

Opening Rite

We begin our liturgy with the sign of our faith:
+In the name of God who is Love, Jesus who lived love, and the Holy Spirit who breathes
love into human hearts. **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 those times we have failed to accept diversity in
gender, sexuality, and identity..... And those times we have failed women, women like Mary
Magdalene.*

Loving God, Source of our divinity and our humanity, we acknowledge our human
struggles...

We struggle to be fully inclusive.
Teach us to love as You love.

We struggle to love our enemies, as you taught us.
Teach us to love as You love.

We struggle to love ourselves as we struggle to love one another.
Teach us to love as You love.

ALL: May we realize, O God, that we are made of Your goodness. May Your goodness be revealed through us, as it is through Mary of Magdala. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Presider: *Inclusive One, this evening we celebrate life in the face of death, irrational violence, and social and religious exclusion. We remember the witness of our patron saint, Mary Magdalene. We give you thanks for her story, which challenges us to live lives of truth. You who placed the rainbow in the sky, we also celebrate Your love for all children and the adults they become. May Your holy presence among us, stretch our capacity for acceptance of all that You create to unimaginable horizons, we pray...Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Chapters 1&4 condensed

A Reading from the Book of Ruth

Back in the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. A man from Bethlehem of Judah, Elimelech, left home with his wife, Naomi, and two sons to reside in Moab.

Sometime after their arrival, Elimelech died. Naomi's two sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. Ten years later, both sons died. Naomi was bereft of sons and husband. She and her daughters-in-law prepared to go back to Judah.

Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you to your mother's house. May God show you the same kindness that you have shown to the deceased and to me. They wept aloud. Then she kissed them good-bye, and they wept aloud, saying, "No! We will go back with you to your people."

But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? My lot is too bitter for you. Return home, my daughters..."

At this they wept aloud again. Then, Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her!"

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from you.

Wherever you go I will go, wherever you stay I will stay.

Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Where you die I will die, and there, be buried.

May God do thus to me and more, if even death separates me from you!"

When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her to go back.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, a relative of Naomi took Ruth as his wife. And Ruth, the Moabite, became the great-grandmother of David and thus the ancestress of Jesus.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 42:2-3; 4-5; 8-9; 6

PSALM 42:2-3, 4-5, 8-9, 6

Our Psalm Response is: *We long to know Your love, O God.*

R: We long to know Your love, O God.

As the deer longs for streams of water,
so my soul longs after You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, the Living God.
When will I see the face of God?

R: We long to know Your love, O God.

My tears have been my bread day and night,
as I'm asked every day, "Where is your God?"
But as I pour out my soul, these things I cling to:
how I would set out with joy to the house of God,
how I would lead a procession
amid glad shouts of thanksgiving,
- a multitude, keeping festival.

R: We long to know your love, O God.

But now, deep calls to deep:
Your thunder above calls to the torrents of Your seas,
and all your waves and breakers overwhelm me.
By day, O God, command faithful love!
By night, sing me Your song!
This is my prayer to the God of my life.

R: We long to know your love, O God.

Why are you downcast, my soul,
why do you groan within me?
Wait for God, for I shall again praise God.
In Your healing presence, my God, I put my trust.
R: We long to know your love, O God.

Second Reading

*Gospel of Philip vss. 32, 55**

A Reading from the Gospel of Philip

There were three who always walked very closely with Jesus: Mary, his mother; his sister; and Magdalene, whom they call his lover. His sister and his mother and his companion were each named Mary.

Wisdom, Sophia, whom they call barren, is the mother of the angels, and the consort of the Messiah is Mary Magdalene. Jesus loved Mary more than all the disciples, and he would kiss her on the lips.

The other disciples saw this and asked Jesus, "Why do you love her more than all of us?" Jesus answered them, "Why do I not love you as I do her?"

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

Thanks be to God.

*adapted from Bart Ehrman's translation of the *Gospel of Philip*: Ehrman, Bart. *Lost Scriptures: Books that Did Not Make it into The New Testament*. Oxford: University Press, 2003, pp. 41-42

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Sarah Hart



Gospel

from the "Gospel of Mary Magdalene"

**adapted from Bart Ehrman's translation of the Gospel of Mary, Ehrman, Bart. Lost Scriptures: Books that Did Not Make it into The New Testament. Oxford: University Press, 2003, pp.36-37.*

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

A Reading from the Gospel of Mary Magdalene.

Glory to You, O God.

Having spoken to the disciples, the Teacher departed. The disciples grieved, shedding many tears, saying, "How are we to go among all peoples and preach the Good News of the Kin-dom, - the hope for humanity that our Teacher embodied? They did not spare his life, so why should they spare ours?"

Then Mary arose, embraced them all, and began to speak, "Do not remain in sorrow and doubt, for Jesus' Grace will be entirely with you and will bring you peace. Instead of lamenting his loss, let us praise his greatness, for he has prepared us for this. He is calling upon us to become fully human."

In this way, Mary turned their hearts towards the Good, and they began to discuss the meaning of the Teacher's words.

The Gospel of Mary.

Thanks be to God.

MM Feast Day Reflection – Luz Baez-Tackett

Litany of Saints *Celebrating the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene & Pride, July 20, 2025*

Cantor:

*Angels and archangels,
Sarah and Abraham,
Rebecca and Isaac,
Leah, Rachel, and Jacob,
Miriam and Moses,
Deborah, Judith, and Samuel,
Ruth, David and Solomon,
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Esther,*

ALL: Pray for us... (and after each petition...)

*Anna and Elizabeth,
Joachim and Zechariah,
Mary and Joseph,
Mary Magdalene Apostle
Peter, Andrew, James and John,
The Apostle Thomas
Martha, Mary and Lazarus,
Susanna and Joanna,*

ALL: All you holy people pray for us

ALL: Pray for us...

ALL: All you holy people pray for us.

*Stephen, Philip, and Lydia,
Benedict and Scholastica,
Brigid and Patrick,
Ambrose, Monica, Augustine,
Clare, Francis, and Dominic,
Joan of Arc and Catherine
Julian and Ignatius
Teresa and Therese;*

ALL: Pray for us...

*John XXIII & Francis
Caesar Chavez, Oscar Romero,
Ita, Maura, Dorothy, Jean
Rosa Parks, Martin, Coretta
Rosemary Radford Ruether;
bell hooks and Harvey Milk
Sister Dorothy Stang
Audre Lourd and Pauli Murray*

ALL: All you holy people, pray for us.

ALL: Pray for us...

ALL: All you holy people, pray for us.

*God, give new life.
Show forth your Spirit
In its fullness
In all your people
Guide us in your peace
Lead us in justice
Sustain us in your presence
As you remain with us always;*

ALL: Hear our prayer...

ALL: Christ, hear us, Christ Jesus, hear our prayer.

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.***

Friends, pray that these gifts will deepen our commitment to witness to the inclusion of all peoples, as did Mary Magdalene.
Strengthen us, O God, to witness Your love.

Prayer with our Gifts

Presider: *Holy Mystery, You call us to break one loaf and drink of one cup in memory of Jesus, Your Messiah. In the Rainbow, and in the life of Mary Magdalene, You give us the gift of diversity in our world and hope for radical diversity in our church. May sharing this bread and wine empower us to live the weighty responsibility of loving all that You have created, despite apparent differences. We pray...Amen*

Eucharistic Prayer

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

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

Hearts burning with love, we give God thanks and praise.

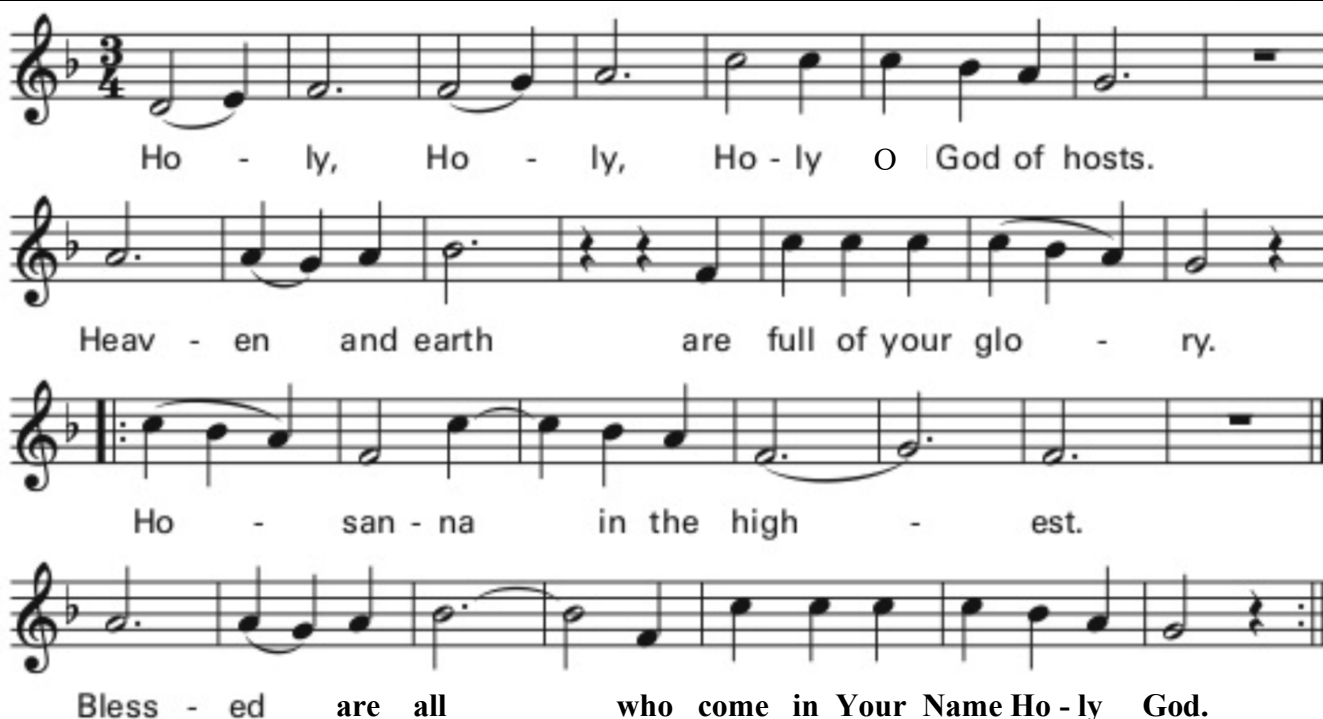
Presider

From the beginning of all things, You create wonder, beauty, and unending life. Glorious are You, O God, who creates splendor from chaos, beauty amid suffering, life from death.

In the garden, the risen Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, who traveled with him, supported him out of her own resources, witnessed his death on the cross, and went to the tomb to anoint him. Mary Magdalene was the first to witness the resurrection. She was sent to preach the Good News to Jesus' other disciples, becoming the Apostle to the Apostles. And so, we join with Mary Magdalene and all the angels and saints, in everlasting song:

Sanctus [Sung]

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Sarah Hart



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly O God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed are all who come in Your Name Ho - ly God.

Voice 1

We give thanks for Your presence in this holy place, in each of us, in this community, and in all Your creation! Fill us with awe, wonder, and holy longing.

Voice 2

Through countless generations Your people honored You: Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, and Jacob, Ruth and Naomi, Mary of Nazareth and Joseph, and Mary Magdalene. These generations, and Jesus, still call us to You. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, You revealed Yourself.

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

Presider: And so, Steadfast 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, as we now fulfill your command of love. 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 cup of love. Do this in memory of me."

Presider:

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

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Hart



Voice 3

We celebrate the memory of Jesus' death and resurrection. We embrace justice, peace, hope, and joy for all peoples, especially for our LGBTQ siblings. Through Your Spirit make this community a sign of unity, a model of equality and instruments of Your peace.

Voice 4

We pray for all participating in Pride this weekend. We pray for our religious leaders, that they embrace the full implications of the Gospel message. We pray for our country and its leaders, that they - and we - abandon political violence and rhetoric and work for the common good. Root our leaders in humble service. Awaken in them the joy of divine diversity.

Presider

Be with all who are sick and all who suffer. Be with all who have died and gone before us into the fullness of union with You. Gather people of every gender, sexuality, race, language, religion, and way of life to share in Your everlasting banquet. In Your presence, we give You glory with all creation, with Ruth and Naomi, Mary Magdalene and Jesus through whom Your goodness flows.

*Through God, who is Love,
With Jesus, Servant Leader,
In Sophia Spirit, Holy Wisdom,
We offer our prayer of praise, this day and forever.*

The Great Amen

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Sarah Hart



The Prayer of Jesus

John Philip Newell, Celtic version

The prayer often called the "Our Father" has been translated and rendered in many ways over the last 2,000 years. Feel free to pray in the language and words most comfortable to you. We offer this contemporary recited version.

*Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May Love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.*

*Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever. Amen.*

Sign of Peace

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other - and the whole world - a sign of peace.

Lamb of God

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Sarah Hart

Je - sus Christ, you call us to the gos-pel of hope/love, O Je - sus

Je- sus the Christ. ...peace, grant us, grant us peace.

Presider

We are the body of Christ, called to be God's love in the world.

We are blessed to share this sacred meal.

All are welcome at God's table. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, know that you are invited to partake of the gluten-free Eucharistic bread, and the consecrated red wine or white grape juice. Let us come, for God's table is ready. Amen.

Communion Song – “We are a Rainbow”

Kai

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
we're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
we will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,
We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.

***We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky Paint the world in colors
proud and bold and free***

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
we are peace in a world that's torn apart,
we are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,
we are love that blooms and grows in every heart. **R**

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,
For our God will be with us on the way.
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any more,
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day. **R**

Prayer After Communion

Presider: *Holy Love, You manifest Your Oneness in the diversity of the Rainbow, which invites us to embrace diversity's preciousness and beauty. Help us to embrace diversity as You do. Spirit of Love, we call our church to greater authenticity. We are grateful for Mary Magdalene's place in our collective history, her service and commitment to Jesus, her witness to his resurrection, her role as Apostle to the Apostles. May her memory and example embolden us to speak the truth of diversity to those who claim power in today's institutional church and world. We pray...Amen*

Closing Blessing

*May the God of the Rainbow bless us and keep us.
May people of all genders, and no gender, be living symbols of God's steadfast love and compassion in the world.
May God raise up women to full partnership in the church.
May God give us peace among and within us all the days of our lives.
Let the church say...Amen*

Sending Forth

This mass is ended.
We carry on the work of the Apostle to the Apostles.
Thanks be to God!

***Let us live our lives so that all might see
that our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee.
Let us build Your kin-dom in love and grace,
so that all might know they have a rightful place.***

Beauty ever ancient and new, breaking through all the noise so we hear you.
Shattering the shadows of night, a new dawn is rising to bring your life, to all the world. **R**
To gather in your presence we came, to be one in spirit, in truth and name;
strengthened by the body of Christ, taking up the call now to share your life,
with all the world. **R**

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. Financial support is essential to breathe life into this dream and to keep it alive for future generations. To underscore our commitment, we seek to support a full-time paid pastor or team 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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Some song lyrics have been adapted to align with our commitment to inclusive language.
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