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“Landscape with Snow” by Vincent Van Gogh

**Worship Aid ~ Ordinary Time I ~ Winter
January 2026, Baptism of Jesus, 1st Sunday in Ordinary Time
4PM LITURGY**

Welcome and Announcements

GONG

Good evening.

Whether you are joining us online or in person, welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, CA, on the unceded territories of the many tribes and bands of the Kumeyaay nation, our neighbors. Tonight, we return to the Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time...

My name is... one of your lectors this evening. Our other lector is... Nancy Corran is our online homilist and presider. Suzie Knapp is our in-person presider. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are. We are glad you are joining us.

We'd 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]

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.

For those of you joining us online, the worship aid is available on our website and is posted in the chat. 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 stay online for some social time.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The All-Peoples Breakfast in Balboa Park is on Martin Luther King Jr Day, January 20th. MMACC has sponsored a table. Please contact Becky Wilder if you'd like to attend.
- We will hold a celebration of Life for Rod Stephens, co-founder of MMACC and beloved friend to many of us, on Thursday, January 29 at 1pm here at GLC. The service will be hybrid.
- Please see our bulletin for other community happenings and information.
- General donations to MMACC are appreciated. In-person donations can be placed in the basket on the welcome table. Online donations can be made through our website.
- Please take a prayerful moment as we prepare for liturgy.

GONG

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Song - "Morning Has Broken"

Tune: Bunessan

First 2 stanzas: Eleanor Farjeon/see below for last stanza*

Morning has broken, like the first morning
 Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
 Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
 Praise for them springing fresh from the World

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven
 Like the first dew fall, on the first grass
 Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
 Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,*
 born from the one God, one in the Christ.
 Heirs of the kin-dom, trusting the promise,
 Now we rejoice in newness of life.

**The lyrics "Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit" by Michael Saward. The third line of this stanza inspired by the same.*

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, 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.

Knowing God's Loving-Kindness

We pause for a moment to consider times at the start of this year when our hearts began to close, times we could not trust in the largeness of God's love...

Holy Love, Holy Wisdom, Holy Spirit,
 When we do not pause to contemplate You in creation...
Forgive us. Help us to breathe.

When we do not seek Sophia-Wisdom to guide our ways...
Forgive us. Help us to listen.

When we do not speak out and take just action on behalf of the silenced...
Forgive us. Help us to embody You in the world.

ALL: Holy One, forgive us when we do not honor You, Your Creation, and Your people. Gift us with awesome wonder, holy curiosity, and courage, we pray, Amen.

Opening Prayer

As we journey through the seasons of our land, the seasons of the church year, and the seasons of our lives, remind us, O God of all seasons, like morning dew, like new rain, like baptismal waters, that we can always begin again and walk in newness of life. As we listen for Your voice, inspire us to enflesh freedom, especially where there is fear and despair. Help us to break open new mornings, we pray...

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Is 42:1-7

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Here is My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen one in whom I delight.
This is the one on whom I have poured my Spirit, the one who will bring justice to all nations.

You will not shout or cry out, or raise your voice in the streets.
A bruised reed you will not break, and a smoldering wick you will not snuff out.
With integrity, you will bring forth justice.
You will not falter or be discouraged until all is well on Earth, until peace comes.
Your teachings will bring hope even across seas, even to far off islands.

This is what God, whose name is Holy, says—
the One who created the cosmos, stretched out the skies,
laid out Earth and planted all that springs from it,
the One who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

“I am God. I have called you to wholeness.
I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you.
I have set You among my people to bind them to me.
I have made you as a lighthouse to all nations;
to open eyes that are blind, to free prisoners,
to release dungeon-dwellers, to empty despair of its captives.”

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

Psalm*Psalm 29:1-11*

Our Psalm Response is: *The Voice of God is upon the waters!*

R: The Voice of God is upon the waters!

Give praise to the Beloved, O Cosmic Chorus.

Sing of Love's glory and strength!

Exalt the glory of Love's Name!

Adore the Beloved in holy splendor!

R: The Voice of God is upon the waters!

The voice of the Beloved is upon the waters.

Love's voice echoes over oceans and seas.

The voice of Love is powerful. Majestic is the heart of Love.

R: The Voice of God is upon the waters!

The Beloved's compassion breaks bonds of oppression, shatters chains of injustice.

Love invites all to the dance of freedom, to sing the Beloved's song of truth.

R: The Voice of God is upon the waters!

The voice of Love strikes with fire upon hearts of stone.

The voice of Love uproots thorns of fear; Love uproots fear in every open heart.

R: The Voice of God is upon the waters!

The voice of Love is heard in every storm and strips the ego bare.

In God's house, all sing praises.

In the chapel of the heart, all cry, "Peace and Glory forever!"

R: The Voice of God is upon the waters!

The Beloved lives in our hearts, Love dwells with us always.

You who awaken to the light of our holy, universal oneness

will know the blessed joy of serving in the great Work of Love.

R: The Voice of God is upon the waters!

Second Reading*Acts 10:34-38, 44-48***A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

While in the house of Cornelius, - a Gentile, Peter addressed friends and family that had gathered there: "I now truly understand that God shows no partiality; but in every nation anyone who is humble before God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You already know the word God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus the Christ—who is Servant-Leader of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after Jesus was baptized with the baptism of John. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. You know how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed, for God was with him."

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit filled all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So, Peter called for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus the Christ. Then, they invited him to stay for several days.

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

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

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

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan river, to be baptized by him. John tried to dissuade Jesus with the words, "It is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Allow this. This way, we do the right thing, fulfilling all righteousness." John allowed it. No sooner had Jesus been baptized and emerged from the water than the skies opened, and the Spirit of God was seen, descending like a dove, coming upon Jesus. A voice came from the heavens, "This is my Beloved, my Own, in whom I delight."

The Gospel of the Baptism of Jesus.

Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.

Homily –

Nancy Corran

Prayers of the Faithful 01-11-26

Baptism of Jesus, replacing the First Sunday in Ordinary Time

God has poured out the Divine Spirit, Divine Life, on Jesus and on us. Let us acknowledge the Mystery, and ask for all that we and all creation need.

Our response: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

All: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

That we take to heart that the Spirit's message, "This is my Beloved, my Own, in whom I delight" is addressed to each of us as well ... we pray ...

All: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

That with Peter we acknowledge and live the truth that God shows no partiality, and that all who seek are acceptable to God ... we pray ...

All: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

Scripture commands us to treat foreigners the same as citizens, and to love them equally, remembering that we, too, were once foreigners. In memory eternal of Renee Nicole Good and all who have died at the hands of ICE or in ICE custody ... we pray ...

All: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

That we work every day at opening eyes that are blind, freeing prisoners, releasing dungeon-dwellers, and emptying despair of its captives ... we pray ...

All: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

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: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

For all who believe that they are not God-beloved, and for all who tell us that we are not loved by God... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our hearts. 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, remember the universal needs of all people.

[After each petition:]

All: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

[After all petitions have been spoken:]

We lift up all those living with illness, injury, loss, and suffering, those who have gone home in Holy Mystery, 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: Life-giving Spirit, come, live within us!

Closing Presider's Prayer:

Holy Mystery, in the prayers we have voiced help us to hear Your Voice; in our silent prayers, help us to know You as Silent Speaker. In the movement of our lives, show us Your life-giving Spirit. We lay our prayers before you as the gift of our hearts, broken or joyful, always grateful, we pray...

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Song – "Flow River Flow"

Hurd

*Flow river flow, flow over me.
O living water, Poured out for free;
O living water, flow over me.*

You will be mine and I will be your God,
For I make all things new.
And a new heart, a heart of flesh and feeling,
I will place within you for your heart of stone. **(R)**

Our hearts shall see, and we shall find a voice;
Then we shall leap for joy.
Rivers will flow into dry and barren desert,
Flowers bloom in splendor, glory fill the land. **(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.

Friends, pray that sharing this bread and wine will awaken in us a passion for equity and generosity of spirit, that all may be brought to the table of abundance.

Transform us to be Your loving and courageous prophets.

Prayer with our Gifts

Holy Wisdom, Reveal to us - in our own lives - the mystery of the bread: that wholeness is born of our broken places; and the mystery of the wine, that in dying we are raised to new life, 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 one another.

Presider:

Wise and faithful Indwelling Spirit, we thank and praise you! You, and cosmic life, birthed the Cosmos in wisdom and love that ever new life forms might emerge and thrive.

Voice 1 (online)

We witness around us and in us Your creative power in the unfolding story of the universe. Yet, we, Your creatures, often deviate from Wisdom, hindering Your evolutionary and revolutionary presence in our midst.

Voice 2 (online)

We give thanks for Jesus, Your Messiah, who lived among us as friend, prophet, and liberator. In Jesus, You reveal humanity come of age, divinity-in-humanity. Through Jesus, You extend the invitation to wholeness.

Voice 3

Indwelling Spirit, You companion us on the journey, calling us as a people of faith to embrace the cosmos and our world with new vision. In union with all throughout time who have lifted their voices in joy, we, too, proclaim our song of praise:

Sanctus [Sung]

Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan

***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.***

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

Presider:

We invoke Your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and vine, that they may become the body and blood of Jesus in us, to nurture in us the discerning gifts of wisdom, life, and truth.

ALL: The night before Jesus died, he gathered around the table of shared wisdom with his disciples. Jesus took bread; blessed You, God of all good gifts; broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying: Take this all of you and eat. This is my body which is for you.

[Pause]

After the meal, Jesus took a 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 cup of love, a sign of the new and everlasting covenant, poured out for you and for all. Sustain one another in the power of sacred memory.

Presider:

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith (sung):

Mass of Renewal, Stephan

***We proclaim Your death O Jesus, and profess Your resurrection,
until You come again.***

Voice 4: As we celebrate this simple and sacred meal, we remember the blessings of ages past. We know You are with us now. We look forward in hope, knowing that You, Holy Love, will continue to empower us in our earthly lives and mission.

Presider: In union with all peoples living and dead, we unite our longings and prayers, asking for wisdom and courage:

Voice 5: to discern Your Voice in the circumstances of our daily lives;

Voice 6: to act justly in confronting the desecration of Earth and its peoples, their pain and their suffering;

Voice 7: to take risks to be creative and proactive on behalf of those who are poor and marginalized;

Voice 8: and to love all people, beyond all our labels, with generosity of heart.

As our world unfolds amid pain and beauty, inspire us to attend to new things Sophia Spirit makes possible. Remind us that we are co-creators in the wise and wonderful work of creation, and our future.

Through God, - Loving Creator

Through Christ, - Liberator,

Through Sophia, - Enlivening Spirit,

we give thanks and praise, now and always. Amen.

The Great Amen

Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan

A-a-men, a-a-men, a-men!

COMMUNION RITE

The Prayer of Jesus

Fresen/Willman/Klotz, adapted

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 using the language and words most comfortable to you. We offer this contemporary recited version.

Birther of the Cosmos, you breathe life into us.

May your Wisdom guide us and all creation.

May your love be acknowledged

in its home in each human heart,

as it is at home throughout the cosmos.

Grant us today both bread and insight
that we may become bread for others.

Loose the cords of wrongs that bind us.

In this freedom, help us loose the cords we bind round others.

*Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from clouded vision,
from all that holds us back from loving.*

*For in you is born the astonishing fire that gives life to all
and the song that beautifies all, here, now and always, Amen.*

Sign of Peace

May the peace of 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.*

Presider:

In and through the Spirit, we are God's hands and heart in the world.

We are happy and blessed to share this sacred work.

We believe that this is God's table, not ours; all are truly welcome and invited to receive the gluten free eucharistic bread, and consecrated red wine or white grape juice. May all who share this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. Amen!

Communion Song –

There is a place for the sadness, Hold on to Love.

There is a season of gladness, Hold on to Love.

When pain and confusion seem endless, Hold on to Love.

We cultivate healing through kindness, Hold on to Love.

Hold on to love where hope is found, hold on to love where joy abounds.

Hold on to love where grace and mercy are overflowing. Hold on to love. (Hold on.)

When terror and fear overwhelm us, Hold on to Love.

Courage and faith will sustain us, Hold on to Love.

When violence seeks to destroy us, Hold on to Love.

Acts of compassion restore us, Hold on to Love. **[R]**

When hatred is used to divide us, Hold on to Love.

Wisdom and truth reunite us, Hold on to Love.

When prejudice poses as freedom, Hold on to Love.

Dignity means all are welcome. Hold on to Love. **[R]**

Prayer After Communion

Holy Love, In baptism we are claimed as Your own, Your beloved, in whom You delight. May the meal we shared enable us to claim our belonging to one another as each other's "own"; to claim one another as beloved, even our enemies; and to delight in all the goodness in one another, so that goodness, like the year ahead, will increase, we pray, Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

Closing Blessing

*May we empty despair of its captives,
Let the church say...*

*May we hear the Voice of God in the storms of our lives,
Let the church say...*

*May we not withhold water from any who thirst,
Let the church say...*

*And may we always, in all ways, hold on to love...
Let the Church say...*

Sending Forth

This mass is ended. Ordinary Time is begun.

Thanks be to God!

Closing Song - "Rain Down"

Cortez

***Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love God of life.***

Faithful and true is the word of our God. All of God's works are so worthy of trust. God's mercy falls on the just and the right; Full of God's love is the earth. **(R)**

God of creation, we long for your truth; You are the water of life that we thirst. Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts, All of our hope lies in you. **(R)**

We are grateful to have shared in 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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**The Eucharistic Prayers (EP), "Wisdom" and "Calling Forth the Adult" were composed by Diarmuid O'Murchu. The two EPs were adapted by the MMACC Liturgy Committee for use in this worship aid.*