


 Mary Magdalene Apostle
 Catholic Community

•*Making Catholicism relevant* •*Restoring women's ordination* •*Living the change we envision*



"Sea Cave Sunrise", Acadia National Park, photograph by Benjamin Williamson

"As the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb... The angel said to the women... 'He is not here, for he has been raised...'"

Mt 28:1, 5a, 6a

Worship Aid
Easter Season, April 26, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

GONG

Good evening. 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 on whose land we have made our home.

My name is... one of your lectors this evening. Suzie Knapp is our homilist and in-person presider. Nancy Corran is our online presider. We gather in person and online as we journey together through the Easter season. 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 YouTube, we greet you. 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 note that songs are in the inserted song 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. 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 remain online for some social time.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **First Friday of May, May 1, 2026**, we will gather online to pray the contemporary rosary for the world at **9:30am**. All are welcome. Jane will send out the link on the day before on April 30.
- Please see our bulletin for other community news and events.
- Donations may be placed in the basket outside the chapel doors. Online donations can be made through our website.

We now invite you to take a prayerful breath as we begin our opening song.

[moment of silence]

~ INTRODUCTORY RITES ~

Opening Song - "Now the Green Blade Rises"

Crum

Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth Christ came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Who that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, the Risen One is seen.
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your healing touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been.
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Opening Rite

+ In the name of God who is Love, Jesus who lived love,
and the 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.

Kyrie - Knowing God's Loving Kindness

Source of all, when we doubt Your Presence in others, in ourselves, in all Creation...

R: Open our minds. Reveal Yourself anew.

Jesus, Risen Christ, when we do not recognize You in our midst...

R: Open our eyes. Reveal Yourself anew.

Life-giving Spirit, when we forget to be Your Presence in the world...

R: Open our hearts. Reveal Yourself anew.

ALL: Holy Love, may the Risen Christ free us to live our lives with trust, joy, and compassion, shared with all meet, we pray... Amen.

Gloria

Mass of St Ann by Bolduc

***Glory! Glory to God in the highest.
Glory! Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.***

We praise, you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
O God, heavenly One, O God, belov'd creator. **(R)**

O Jesus Christ, holy anointed One,
O Christ, Incarnate Love, Child of the Cosmos,
you take away the pain of the world, bring healing to us;
you take away the pain of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Creator, bring healing to us. **(R)**

For we are one in the Holy One, we are one in the Christ,
you belong to each other, in Jesus Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God Creator. **(R)**

Opening Prayer

Carmen L. Caltagirone, adapted

Presider: *God of Resurrection and new life, we greet you with prayers of praise and thanksgiving, with open hearts and minds, because we trust in your loving kindness. Enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love, and the strength of your Spirit who dwells within us. May we truly remember each day that it is in you that we live and move and have our being. In Jesus' name, we pray... Amen.*

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

First Reading

Acts 25-26 [abbrev]: 25:1-2, 18-22a; 26:1, 9-17, 18d, 30-32

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Festus, one of the religious officials sent to scavenge the countryside to prosecute followers of Jesus who had fled Jerusalem, went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem where he received a report against Paul.

When the accusers stood up, they did not charge Paul with any of the crimes that Festus was expecting. Instead, they had certain points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. Since Festus was

at a loss how to investigate these questions, he ordered Paul to be held until the emperor was available. Meanwhile, King Agrippa and Queen Bernice agreed to hear Paul.

The next day Agrippa and Bernice entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent people of the city. And Paul was brought in.

Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak." Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself:

"At first, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem. With authority from the head priests, I not only locked up many of the holy people in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so furiously enraged at them that I pursued them even to foreign cities.

"With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the religious authorities, when at midday along the road, your Excellencies, I saw a radiance from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground. Then, I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts **you** to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you?' The apparition answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you to serve and testify to this vision and to other ways I will appear to you. I will rescue you and send you to the Gentiles, so they too may know that they have a place among the chosen faithful..."

Agrippa got up. The governor, Bernice and those who had been seated with them got up. As they were leaving, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Wisdom 11:21-12:1

The Psalm Response is:

Your imperishable breath is in all things.

R: Your imperishable breath is in all things.

You chose the humble to reveal your power
and the weak to show great strength.

None can resist You.

With You, the entire universe is like a grain of sand
that barely tips the scales,
or a drop of dew settling on the grass

in the morning.

R: Your imperishable breath is in all things.

Because You can do all things,
 You have compassion for all.
 You forgive people's failings, so they may repent.
 You love all things that exist.
 You detest none of the things that You have created.

R: Your imperishable breath is in all things.

How would anything have endured
 had You not desired it?
 How could anything have lasted
 unless You called it into being?
 You spare all things, for they are Yours, O God,
 You Who love the living.
 Your imperishable breath is in all things.

R: Your imperishable breath is in all things.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:23 + 5:7-11

A Reading from the 1st Letter attributed to Peter 2:23 + 5:7-11

When Jesus was reviled and insulted, he did not revile or offer insult in return. When Jesus suffered and was abused, he did not look for vengeance; rather, Jesus trusted himself and everything to the One Who discerns with justice.

Therefore, cast all your anxiety on the One who cares for you.

Be alert and of sober mind. Resist evil, for, like a roaring lion, it will devour. Stand firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings¹.

And the God of all grace, who called you to everlasting glory in Christ, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast after you have suffered a little while. To God whose strength is revealed in weakness, be the power of Love forever and ever. Amen.

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

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of St Ann

¹ This is *not* suffering as often depicted in the West where Christianity is the majority religion, or one of them. A dominant religion claiming "victimhood" is a troubling abuse of power. Punishments for Christians by 1st and 2nd century Roman rulers (like Domitian and Trajan, c. 97) included flogging, imprisonment, and/or death.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (2x)

Gospel

Jn 14:1-2, 4-9, 11-13a, 16-17ac

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

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

Speaking to the disciples on the night before he was to die, Jesus said:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. In the house of my Loving God, there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “We don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. You come to God by following me. If you know me, you will know my Loving God also. From now on, you do know. You have seen God.”

Philip said to Jesus, “Show us God, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still don't know me? Whoever has seen me has seen our Loving God. How can you say, ‘Show us God!’”

“Believe me that I am in our Loving God and our Loving God is in me; but, if you don't believe, then believe me because of the works themselves. Truly, I tell you, the one who trusts in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going back to our Loving God, and whatever you ask in my name, I will do.”

“When I go, I will ask God to send you another Companion to be with you always, the Spirit of Truth, your Advocate and Comforter. You know Her because She abides with you and will be among you and in you.”

The Gospel of God.

Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.

Homily

Suzie Knapp

Prayers of the Faithful 04-26-2026

4th Sunday in Easter

“The God of all grace ... will restore you and make you strong ... after you have suffered a little while.” As we continue our heartfelt celebration of Easter, let us ask for all that we and all creation need in this time of special suffering.

Our response: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

All: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

That like Paul we get up and stand on our feet, ready to serve and to testify to the vision ... we pray ...

All: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

That we witness to the world that “You love all things that exist. You detest none of the things that You have created” ... we pray ...

All: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

Scripture commands us to treat foreigners the same as citizens, and to love them equally, remembering that we, too, were once foreigners. Let us work to make our country welcoming to migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees ... we pray ...

All: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

In solidarity with our new Bishop Kathleen Bellefeuille-Rice, with our dear Bishop Emerita Jane, and with all who are working to bring to our times the full inclusive witness of the first believers in the Risen One ... we pray ...

All: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

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: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

For those who do not accept our way of honoring and living the discipleship of equals ... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Paschal community living in Resurrection hope despite everything. 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: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

[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: Christ is risen, as the women told us! Alleluia!

Concluding Presider's Prayer:*Ruth Duck*

*O God of Love, you have called us as a church community. We thank you for the opportunities to grow in understanding and concern for one another. May we be an incarnation of your love within and beyond these walls, wherever there is loneliness, injustice, or misunderstanding, through Jesus the Christ, our model of service, and the Holy Spirit, our strength, we pray... **Amen.***

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

Offertory Song - "Send Us Your Spirit"

Schutte

Send us your Spirit, O God
 Evening enfolds us and holds us too near
 Wake the morning light; make our living bright
 Shine in your fullness, O God

Teach us your wisdom, O God
 Shadows have clouded, have crowded our sight
 Give us hearts that see. Set our loving free
 Hear us and help us, O God

Send us good summer, O God
 Winters have chilled us, have stilled us too long
 Give us love's own fire. Be our true desire
 Send us your Spirit, O God

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 in sharing this bread and wine, we will know our dying and our rising. ***With the Risen Christ, we proclaim love stronger than death.***

Prayer with Our Gifts*Michael Morwood, adapted*

*Loving God, in Jesus' memory we gather once more around bread and wine,
 symbols of nourishment, of hospitality, of friendship, and of commitment.
 May the bread and wine we share today nourish our call to be Easter people.
 People who see beyond the barriers, the pain, the chaos, and hard times.
 People who live in faith, hope and love amidst the storms of our contemporary world.
 We pray in Jesus' name... **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: Blessed are You and all Creation: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, stars, the planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home. You are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with new life.

Your love restores our broken world. Your Chosen One, Jesus the Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. And so, we join with all those in every generation who have followed you into the dance, singing this unending song of praise:

Sanctus [Sung]*Mass of St Ann, Bolduc*

***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 1 (ONLINE)

In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb, changing the women's sorrow into joy, emboldening them to be bearers of the good news of resurrection. From the tomb, the mystery shone clear that life in You transcends death.

Voice 2 (ONLINE) We give You thanks for Jesus and for all who have taught and shown us selfless love. May we love our neighbors and our enemies as ourselves. May we give Your Spirit freedom to act in us and so transform ourselves and our world.

Voice 3

Jesus renewed the promise of his presence, making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking assurance to fearful disciples, sharing a meal with them.

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

Presider:

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 of his betrayal, Jesus gathered with his friends to share a final Passover meal. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and 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."

Presider:

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

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, justice and equity. Imbue them with the joy of divine diversity. Bestow on them the wealth of humble service to others.

Voice 5

Remember us gathered here. Remember all who seek You. Remember all in need of healing and all who suffer. Remember all who have died and gone before us into the fullness of cosmic splendor with you.

Presider: 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, Bolduc

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

~ COMMUNION RITE ~

The Prayer of Jesus [Recited]

Celtic version, John Philip Newell

Throughout the centuries, the prayer of Jesus, often called the "Our Father," has been translated and rendered in many different ways. Please 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 the Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another – and the whole world - a sign of peace.

Lamb of God [Sung]

Mass of St. Ann, Bolduc

***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 the Bread of the Resurrection, the Wine of New Life.

Blessed are we to share in the Mystery of Life.

At MMACC, all are truly welcome at this table. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey, you are invited 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. Come, for God's table is ready! Amen

Communion Song - "By Breath"

Thomsen

*By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one.
By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one.*

The air that is my breath is the air that you are breathing.
And the air that is your breath is the air that I am breathing.
The wind rising in my breast is the wind from the east, from the west,
from the north, from the south, breathing in, breathing out. **R**

The water that is my blood, my sweat, tears from crying.
Is the water that is your blood, your sweat, tears from crying.
And the rising of the tide is in our veins and in the ocean wide.
We are in the rising steam, rushing river, running stream. **R**

The earth is dust, the earth is clay, flow'rs blossoming and fading.
We are dust and we are clay, we are blossoming and fading.
Every color, every sound, every place is holy ground.
Oh, every living thing, can you hear it laugh? Can you hear it sing? **R**

The fire in my heart, my soul flame burning.
Is the fire in your heart, your soul flame burning.
We are Spirit burning bright, by the light of day, in the dark of night.
We are shining like the sun, and like the moon, like the Holy One. **R**

Prayer After Communion

Common Lectionary Prayer Resources

*Risen Christ, you prepare a place for us, in the home of Sacred Mystery.
Draw us more deeply into yourself, through scripture read, water splashed,
bread broken, wine poured, so that when our hearts are troubled,
we will know you more completely as the way, the truth, and the life. We pray, **Amen.***

~ CONCLUDING RITES ~**Closing Blessing**

from an Iona liturgy, Mary McHuguh & Patricia Stoat

*May God, the brightness of the universe, bless us.
May Jesus, the light of the world, disturb us.
May Sophia Spirit, energy of the cosmos, strengthen us.
And may we be blessed with the power to speak and live the gospel all our days.
...and the church says... **Amen!***

Sending Forth

Christ is Risen, we rise and we are sent!
 Let us go forth in joy and love.
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Closing Song - "All You Works of God"

Haugen

God has chosen us, God has chosen us to bring good news to the poor.
 God has chosen us, God has chosen us to bring new sight to those searching for light:
 God has chosen us, chosen us

***And to tell the world that God's kin-dom is near,
 to remove oppression and breakdown fear,
 yes, God's time is near, God's time is near,
 God's time is near, God's time is near.***

God has chosen us, God has chosen us to set alight a new fire.
 God has chosen us, God has chosen us to bring to birth a new kin-dom on earth:
 God has chosen us, chosen us: **R**

God is calling us, God is calling us in all whose cry is unheard.
 God is calling us, God is calling us to raise up the voice with no power or choice:
 God is calling us, calling us: **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 woman priest (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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