

 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, May 3, 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. Jane Via 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

- **I invite Mary Kay forward to share an invitation from the San Diego Catholic Worker.**
- 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 - "A Rightful Place "

Angrisano

*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 you life, to all the world. **R**

To gather in your presence we came to be one in spirit, in love and name; strengthened by the body of Christ, taking up the call now to share your life, with all the world. **R**

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

We pause to consider those times this past week when we nested in our privilege and lack of need...

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

Presider: *Lover of all that is, although all creation is Your home, we sometimes feel Your presence here in a special way. As the challenges of our time intensify, our longing for Your Holy Presence also intensifies. Help us remember to seek you first in those most harmed by heartless power implemented in Your name. We pray... Amen.*

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the early days after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. In response, the twelve called together the whole community of disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to serve at table. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.' What they said pleased the whole community. They chose Stephen, a person full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip and five others, to serve as deacons. They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem; and a great many of the Temple priests became followers of the way.

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

Our Psalm Response is: *Alleluia, sing forever!*

[R] Alleluia, sing forever!

Sing out your joy to the Creator, O people!

Praises from the just are good.

Give thanks upon the lyre!

Make melody with the harp of ten strings!

O, sing a new song!

Play skillfully, with joyful shouts and loud alleluias!

[R] Alleluia, sing forever!

The Word of God is just and gives life.

God loves justice and all that is right.

Holy Love fills Earth.

By a word from the mouth of God the heavens were made,

by the breath of God, all the stars.

[R] Alleluia, sing forever!

It is vain to hope for safety in weapons of war.

Despite their power, they cannot save.

Behold! The eye of Holy Love is upon those who stand in awe,

upon those who hope in the unseen power of God's love.

[R] Alleluia, sing forever!

Second Reading*Romans 16:1-4, 6-7, 12-13, 16***A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans**

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae. Welcome her with the hospitality of God, as is fitting for the saints to do. Help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

Greet Prisca and Aquila, who worked with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their lives for my life. Greet also the church in their house. Not only do I give them thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my cousins who were in prison with me. They are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

Greet the holy women, Tryphaena and Tryphosa, servants of the Christ. Greet the beloved Persis, another woman who works hard for the sake of the Good News. Greet Rufus, a Judean and a follower of the Christ; and greet his mother—a mother to me also. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Jesus the Christ greet you.

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

Thanks be to God.

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

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

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

Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon, - a man who had suffered a virulent skin-disease - when a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it in his head as he sat at table. The disciples were indignant when they saw this and said, "Why this waste?" This could have been sold for a high price, and the money given to the poor." But Jesus noticed this and said, "Why do you make trouble for the woman? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfumed oil on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. In truth I tell you, wherever in all the world this gospel is proclaimed, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

The Gospel of God.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

"In truth I tell you, wherever in all the world this gospel is proclaimed, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." Let us call to mind all those of whatever gender who have in fact ministered and handed on the faith throughout history, as well as those who have been turned away from their calling. In solidarity with this great cloud of witnesses, in resurrection hope let us ask for all that we and all creation need.

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

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

In solidarity with ministers and pastors of all genders, 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!

That like the woman with the alabaster jar, we give our loving care to the Body of Christ wherever we encounter it ... 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!

With Phoebe, Prisca, Mary, Junia, Tryphaena and Tryphosa, Persis, Jane, Nancy, Suzie, and all our parents, siblings, children, and friends who have risen to the call of the Good News ... 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 have not accepted and lived out the inclusive discipleship of equals, and for the times we have faltered in our own efforts ... 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 Prayer:

Holy Mystery, We offer these prayers in resurrection hope, acknowledging all those who could benefit from exclusive structures but choose to support inclusive discipleship of equals in the church and equality and equity in the world, we pray... Amen.

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

Offertory Song - "Women of the Church"

Landry

***Women of the church, how rich is your legacy!
Women of the church, how great is your faith!
Women of the church, well-springs of integrity, lead us in ways of peace!***

Companions and disciples of Jesus, chosen and called by name.
Witnesses of wisdom, weavers of the Word, lead us in the ways of truth! **R**

Living signs of service and strength, Hands of healing, hearts of love.
Women of vision, voices for the voice-less, lead us in ways of hope. **R**

Women of compassion and care, bearers of God's life-giving light.
Centered in prayer while working for justice, lead us in the ways of peace. **R**

Women martyred in our time, laying down their lives for the poor,
Prophets of courage who stood with those oppressed, help us all walk your paths. **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 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

Incomprehensible Holy Mystery, surround this table with Your radiance and warmth as we bless this bread and wine. May sharing this ritual meal with one another as kindred souls give us courage to speak truth in our time, regardless of 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: 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 – "You are Mine"

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.

You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.

Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.

In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me. **(R)**

I am the Word that leads to all freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.

I will call your name, embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk, and live! **(R)**

Prayer After Communion

Holy Mystery, we give thanks for the women of the earliest church. We give thanks for Paul and his letters which preserve their memories. We give thanks for the evangelists who remembered and included the story of Jesus' anointing before his burial by a woman. We give thanks for the women of our time who call the church to a discipleship of equals and full gender inclusion. We give thanks for the women of our time who work for women's basic rights and the rights of all people in wider world cultures. Finally, we give great thanks for the men of this community and those men everywhere, who standing up to patriarchal culture, give up its many benefits to them. Strengthen us all to live courageously into the future. We pray... Amen.

~ CONCLUDING RITES ~

Closing Blessing

*The world is now too dangerous, and too beautiful,
for anything but love.
So, may your eyes be so blessed that you see the Holy in everyone,
your lips so you speak nothing but truth.
May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch becomes a
sacrament, your feet so that you run to those who need you.
And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love...
your love,
Changes everything.
Let the church say... **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 - "The Days of Elijah"

Robin Mark

These are the days of Elijah declaring the word of our God,
And these are the days of Your servant, Deb-rah, wisdom and justice restored.
These are the days of great trials, of ravage, oppression, and war,
Still we are the voice in the desert crying, prepare ye the way of our God.

***Behold God's here, dancing in the wind, shining like the sun, raining down anew.
Lift your voice, [it's the] year of Jubilee, open up Your heart and live in truth.***

And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant, Mary, proclaiming Love stronger than death.
And these are the days to do justice. A harvest to be sown in peace
And we are the laborers (that are) in Your vineyard, making new wine for that feast. **R**

And these are the days of transition, new life amid the decay.
And these are the days of Your servant, Jesus, the Truth, the Life and the Way.
And we are the church of the future, resurrecting from dormant seeds. Community
working for transformation, a world governed by love and peace. **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>.

Music used with permission OneLicense #A-71188

Some song lyrics have been adapted to align with our commitment to inclusive language.

No copyright infringement is intended.