

 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*

**Easter Season Worship Aid  
May 17, 2026 Ascension**

## 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 our Easter Season concludes as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension. 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](http://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**

- You are invited to the Catholic Worker Fundraiser Lunch, celebrating 50 years of Catholic Worker's ministry to our unsheltered neighbors. Come and enjoy Fr. Gil's famous Spaghetti and Meatballs. His recipe is legendary! The lunch is on Saturday May 30 from Noon-4pm at the Mary Magdalene Church in Bay Park. The price is \$30. If unable to attend, please consider a donation on this special anniversary occasion.
- Please see our bulletin for more details and 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 - "All are Welcome"

Haugen

Let us build a house where all can dwell and all can safely live.  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

***All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true  
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace.  
Here, as one, we claim the faith of Jesus: **(R)**

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **(R)**

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's grace.  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: **(R)**

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard.  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **(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

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**

*adapted from Ruth Duck*

**Presider:** *Holy Mystery, you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We are grateful that you do not leave us alone, but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of Sophia Spirit, that we may know the wisdom and joy you bring to us each day. In Jesus' name we pray...Amen.*

**~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~**

**First Reading**

*Acts 1:1-14*

## **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught, from the beginning up until the day he gave the apostles instruction through the Holy Spirit and was taken up into the heavens. After he suffered and died, Jesus showed himself alive to them by ample proof. For forty days, Jesus appeared to them, speaking about the Kingdom of God. While at table with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for what their Loving God had promised. "The promise is what you have heard me speak about," Jesus said, "that John baptized with water; but, in not many days from now, you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit."

When they were all together, they asked Jesus, "Teacher, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom of Israel?" Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that God has set. But you will be empowered when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he said this, and as they were watching, Jesus was lifted up and disappeared out of their sight into a cloud. While he was going and they were gazing up toward the sky, suddenly two people in white robes stood by them. They said, "You of Galilee, why do you stand looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into the heavens, will come again in the same way as you have seen him go."

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When the eleven arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. They all joined together constantly in prayer, including the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers and sisters.

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

***Thanks be to God.***

## **Psalm**

*Psalm 47:2-3, 6-8, 9-10*

The Psalm response is sung:

***R: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen One.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.***

Clap your hands, all you peoples!

Shout to God with thunderous songs of joy!

For the Holy One, the Cosmic God, is awesome,  
revealed in the power of Creation.

***R: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen One.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.***

God has gone up with a shout,  
the Holy One with the sound of a trumpet!  
Sing praises to God! Sing praises!  
Sing praises to our Creator! Sing praises!  
For the Creator of All is God of the cosmos.  
Sing praises with a psalm.

**R: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen One.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.**

God's reign confounds the nations.  
God is over all and in all.  
The leaders of all peoples gather  
as one people of God.  
For the powers of the earth belong to God.  
Soaring over all, the exalted One will prevail.

**R: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen One.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.**

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 1:17-23*

### A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

May the God of Jesus the Christ, the Glorious One, give you a spirit of wisdom and insight into what has been revealed, so as to bring you to a full knowledge of God. May God enlighten the eyes of your heart, that you may know the hope to which you are called, that is, the riches of the glorious heritage among God's holy people, and the uncommon and extraordinary transformation worked in those of us who believe. This same divine action was at work in Jesus the Christ. The transforming power of God raised Jesus from the dead and set him in deep heaven as the Cosmic Christ. This universal presence exceeds every principality, ruling force, power and dominion in this age and in every age to come. God put all things in care of the Christ and made Christ the church. The church is Christ's body. Through us, in us, and by us, Christ speaks and acts and fills everything with divine presence.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Mass of St Ann*

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

## Gospel

*Mt 28:16-20*

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

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

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to where Jesus had arranged with the women to meet them. When they saw him, they fell down before him, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached them and said, "God authorized me and told me to commission you. Go, therefore, and make disciples of everyone you meet, far and near. Baptize them in the name of the Creator, and of Jesus the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, instructing them in the practice of the way of life I have lived. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of time."

The Gospel of God.

***Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.***

**Homily**

*Suzie Knapp*

**Prayers of the Faithful 05-17-2026**

*Ascension observed, 7th Sunday in Easter*

"You people of San Diego, why do you stand looking up at the sky?" "... make disciples of everyone you meet ... instructing them in the practice of the way of life I have lived." In solidarity with all those who, from the beginning, have struggled to live in light of The Mystery, let us ask for all that we and all creation need.

Our response: Spirit of Love, You are God within us.

***All: Spirit of Love, You are God within us.***

That instead of looking up to the sky and wondering where God has gone, we look within our fellow human beings, and find there the Temple ... we pray ...

***All: Spirit of Love, You are God within us.***

That we acknowledge, deep within, that through us, in us, and by us the Christ speaks and acts and fills everything with Divine Presence ... we pray ...

***All: Spirit of Love, You are God within us.***

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: Spirit of Love, You are God within us.***

That we join with the apostles, the women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and all Jesus's family members, in prayer and in loving service ... we pray ...

***All: Spirit of Love, You are God 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: Spirit of Love, You are God within us.***

For the times we as individuals and as a community have stumbled in practicing the way of life that Jesus lived ... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

**All: Spirit of Love, You are God within us.**

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Spirit-empowered 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: Spirit of Love, You are God 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: Spirit of Love, You are God within us.**

**Concluding Prayer:** *Risen Christ, hear the prayers we bring to you in trust and confidence. May we accept the challenge given to the disciples, to witness your inclusive love and message of liberation to the ends of the earth. May Sophia Spirit guide our efforts to bring peace and reconciliation to both friend and stranger, we pray... Amen.*

## ~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

**Offertory Song - "Song of St Patrick"**

*Haugen*

***May the spirit of Christ be our hope through the day,  
be our guard through the night, our companion on the way.***

Christ upon our left hand watching, at our right hand guiding.  
Christ above, beneath guarding, near to us abiding.

Christ be in each holy silence, Christ be in our speaking.  
Christ in ev'ry work we offer, ever in our seeking.

God creator, bless and keep us. Christ, be ever near us.  
Spirit, be the light before us, gentle be our pathway.

## 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

*adapted from Michael E. Dixon*

*Gracious God, there are signs of hope all around us – in the new births of nature during spring, in the daily renewal of our faith, and in the living hope that is ours in Jesus the Christ. Help us to abide in your hope. Help us to trust in your love. May the bread we break and the cup we share remind us that hope in you does not disappoint. As we share this sacred meal, our faith is renewed, and so is our awareness of the transforming power of your love, 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 the broken places of our lives. 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...*

*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 - "Song of the Body of Christ"

Rosania

*We come to share our story, we come to break the bread,  
We come to know our rising from the dead.*

We come as your people, we come as your own,  
United with each other, love finds a home. **(R)**

We are called to heal the broken, to be hope for the poor,  
We are called to feed the hungry at our door. **(R)**

Bread of life and cup of promise, in this meal we all are one,  
In our dying and our rising, may your kin-dom come. **(R)**

You will lead and we shall follow, you will be the breath of life;  
Living water, we are thirsting for your light. **(R)**

We will live and sing your praises, "Alleluia" is our song.  
May we live in love and peace our whole life long. **(R)**

## Prayer After Communion

*Loving God, through the sacred meal we have shared, open our eyes to see the risen Christ in one another. May we be rooted in love and guided by Sophia Spirit in all that we do. And when we are fearful to share your love with others, give us the courage to go beyond and persevere. Help us to remember that we are infinitely valuable in your eyes. We pray this through Jesus, the Christ, we pray... Amen.*

## ~ CONCLUDING RITES ~

## Closing Blessing

Suzie Knapp

*God sends us into the world, to accept the cost and discover the joy of discipleship. Therefore let us go - carrying the peace of Christ, the love of God and the wisdom of Sophia Spirit, in trial and rejoicing. 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!**

Go in peace. Go in love.  
Go to seek. Go to serve.  
Go in hope to work and pray.  
And God goes with you all the way.  
Go in peace. Go in love.  
Go to seek. Go to serve.  
Go in hope to work and pray.  
And God goes with you all the way.  
And God goes with you all the way.

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*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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