Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

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



3rd century fresco, Catacombs of Rome, depicting Jesus as Shepherd, carrying a lamb. This is one of the earliest visual representations of Jesus.

Worship Aid ~ Ordinary Time II
November 22, 2026
Feast of the Christ the Servant

Welcome & Announcements

GONG

Good Evening. Welcome to Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, 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 is also in person with us as co-presider. We gather in person and online to celebrate the Feast traditionally known as "Christ the King", which we celebrate as Christ the Servant. Today is also the Feast day of St Cecelia, patron saint of musicians. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are.

We greet those of you on YouTube. For those on Zoom, please feel free to introduce yourselves on chat. After our liturgy concludes, we invite you to stay online for some social time. 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 lines:
[Our communal spoken responses are in the Assembly Worship Aid. The songs are on the white song sheet inserted in the Worship Aid.]

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Once again MMACC will sponsor a Christmas Gift Project for an orphanage in Tijuana Mexico, sponsored by *Corazon de Vida*. Carol Kramer has more information.
- The Western Service Workers Association offers additional "ways to give" this season. Please see Joseph Jeffers' email to the community for more information.
- MMACC will hold a friendly Thanksgiving Liturgy on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26th, at 10am, here in person at GLC. Zoom participation will also be available.
- Amadeo Rhea invites the community to potluck Thanksgiving Celebrations at his home in Jacumba on Thanksgiving Day at noon. Contact Amadeo whose number is in the directory. More information is also in the bulletin.
- Jackie Davis' unique hand-made greeting cards available to the community for a $2.00 donation, or any donated amount above that. 100% of the money from the donation will be given to support an organization providing basic needs of detainees at the Otay Mesa Detention facility. Cards will be available on Sundays at church. Online members can contact Jackie directly.
- Invite Nancy forward to share our Community Giving Recipients.
- Please see our bulletin for other community news and announcements.
- Donations to MMACC are appreciated. In-person donations can be placed in the basket on the welcome table. Online donations may be made through our website under the "donate" tab. ***GONG***

~ INTRODUCTORY RITE ~

Opening Song – "Christ be our Light" *Farrell*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. (R)

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (R)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (R)

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kin-dom come. (R)

Opening Rite

We begin our liturgy with the sign of our faith:
+ In the name of God, who is Love, Jesus who lived love, and the Holy Spirit who breathes love into human hearts...
Amen.

May the grace of Jesus the Christ, the love of God,
and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Knowing God's Loving-Kindness

As we begin we call to mind times we did not acknowledge and honor those in our lives who serve...

Life-giving God, when we do not hear Your words of life for all life…
[R] ***Help us to hear You and heed Your call.***

Holy Word and Wisdom-made-Flesh, when we do not hear Your call to serve…
[R] ***Help us to hear You and heed Your call.***

Sophia Spirit, when we do not hear the cries of those in need…
[R] ***Help us to hear You and heed Your call.***

ALL: ***Holy One, grant us stillness to hear You, grace to live lives of service, and courage to bear our gifts to a world in need. Amen***

Opening Prayer

Presider: *Holy Mystery, we ponder Your Creative Magnificence manifest in Your love of all creation. We ponder Your Magnificence manifest in Jesus, Your Christ, Servant to all in need. In You is harmonized what so often appear as dichotomies in human experience. You are Divine Mystery. Empower us to be your holy servants in the world, we pray…* ***Amen.***

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

First Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says God: "I Myself will search for my sheep and tend them. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among the scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when the clouds were low and the darkness thick. I Myself will shepherd my sheep and pasture them. I Myself will give them rest," says God.

"The lost, I will seek. The stray, I will bring back. The injured, I will bind up. The weak, I will strengthen. But the shepherds who have fattened and fed themselves while depriving my sheep, I will destroy. I will feed them with justice."

"As for you, my sheep," says God, "I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats."

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

Psalm *Prov 19:16-17; 21:21; 21:2-3; 22:9, 2; 31:8-9; Sirach 7:32-36*

Our Psalm response is: *We stretch out our hands.*
R: We stretch out our hands.

Keep the greatest commandment, and you will find life;
those who are heedless of their ways will die.
Whoever gives to those who are poor gives to God.
And God will see the kindness done and pay back the giver in full.
Whoever pursues justice and kindness, finds life and honor.
R: We stretch out our hands.

All deeds are right in the sight of the doer;
but it is God who weighs the heart.
To do what is right and just
is more acceptable to God than sacrifice.
You who are generous are blessed,
for you share your food with those who hunger.
"Rich" and "poor" are of the same cloth:
God has made them both.
R: We stretch out our hands.

Speak out for those who cannot speak,
for the rights of the destitute.
Speak out! Judge justly!
Defend the rights of the disenfranchised!
R: We stretch out our hands.

Stretch out your hand to those who are poor,
that your blessing may be complete.
Give your gift to all the living.
Do not withhold your kindness, even from the dead.
Do not avoid those who weep,
but mourn with those who mourn.
Do not hesitate to visit those who are sick.
For such things, you will be loved.
In all you do, remember the end of your life,
and you will never go wrong.
R: We stretch out our hands.

Second Reading *Romans 15:25-29*

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome

I, Paul, have decided to travel to Jerusalem in the service of God's holy people there, because the churches of Macedonia and Achaia have chosen to make a generous contribution to those who are poor among God's holy people in Jerusalem.

Yes, they chose to do this with pleasure; not that they did not owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in the spiritual blessings of the Judeans from Jerusalem, they ought also to be of service to them in material things. So, when I have made this delivery, and have given this harvest into their hands, I will set out to Spain, visiting you in Rome on the way. And know that in coming to you, I shall also come with the full measure of blessing from the Christ.

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

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*

Alleluia, Alleluia; Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 25:31-46*

God is with you. ***And also with you.***
A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew. ***Glory to you, O God.***

When the Chosen One comes in honor, with all the angels alongside, and takes up the seat of judgment, all nations and peoples will gather around. Then, the Chosen One will sit as judge and separate people, one from another, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep will be placed to the right, the goats to the left.

Then the Chosen One will say to those on the right, "Come, you whom my loving God has blessed, inherit the kin-dom prepared for you since the beginning of creation. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you made me welcome; I was naked and you clothed me; I was ill and you came to my assistance; I was in prison, and you visited me."

Then those on the right will ask, "But Your Honor, when did we see you hungry and give you food, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we welcome you as a stranger, or see you naked and give you clothing? When was it that you were sick and we helped you? When did we visit you in prison?" And the Chosen One will reply to them, "In truth, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these kin of mine, you did for me."

Then the Chosen One will say to those on the left, "Depart from me, with your own curse upon you, into the eternal fire prepared for evil and those who wreak evil. For I was hungry, but you did not feed me. I was thirsty, but you did not give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you never made me welcome. I was naked and you gave me no clothing. I was sick and you refused to help me. I was in prison, and you never visited me."

Then those on the left will ask, "But Your Honor, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not come to your help?" Then the Chosen One will reply to them, "In truth I tell you, what you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." And these will go away suffering everlasting consequences. But the righteous will enter everlasting life.

The Gospel of God.
Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Homily – Suzie

Remembering our Call to Serve
Blessing and Commissioning of the 2027 MMACC Community Leadership Council (CLC)

As outgoing Board Members who have completed their term and served on the Community Leadership Council, we call forward Mike Martin. We would spotlight Olivia Dorman online, but she is travelling so couldn't be with us tonight. She is aware we are thinking of her and thanking her this evening. We keep her before us.

"Beloved, we are blessed and grateful for Olivia and Mike. We are grateful for their gracious service and leadership on our Community Leadership Council.
May they be abundantly blessed in their families and friends,
their work and recreation, and their many communities.
And may they always know the blessing of this thankful community."

As newly elected Board members, we call forward Luz Baez-Tackett and Dan Tackett. To join them, we call forward Sue Bruner, Terry Jackson, and Colleen Sharp, re-elected and continuing members.

"Beloved, we are blessed and grateful for the generous
and gracious "yes" given us by our siblings
who have willingly stepped forward
to be our servant-leaders on the Community Leadership Council."

As their colleagues who continue on the CLC, we call forward (spotlight) Judy Scarborough and Karen Murphy.

Presider: *The Community has chosen you to serve and lead us, upholding the Vision and Mission of MMACC and reading the signs of the times. Will you listen deeply, speak kindly, and guide this community with your gifts?* ***We will.***

And we, the members of MMACC, will we support these servant leaders we have chosen in their ministry to us? ***We will.***

"Beloved, we are deeply grateful for the wisdom
and generous spirit of these Your servants.
We commission them and bless them
as they serve the Body of Christ revealed in the
Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community.
May we all join them in the ever challenging and prophetic work
of compassionate attention to what we and the world need.

We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Servant Leader… ***Amen***

We now enter a time of communal prayer...

Prayers of the People 11-26-2023 *Feast of Christ the Servant*

"The injured, I will bind up. The weak, I will strengthen." "…whatever you did for one of the least of these kin of mine, you did for me." With all our companions in faith, let us call on God Who invites us to the kin-dom that transcends human limits and boundaries.

Our response: Christ, Servant, lead us to life.
All: Christ, Servant, lead us to life.

That we never falter in serving, knowing how generously we ourselves have been served … we pray …
All: Christ, Servant, lead us to life.

For all leaders of the church, and especially for members of our Community Leadership Council whom we bless and commission for service today … we pray …
All: Christ, Servant, lead us to life.

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, Servant, lead us to life.

Knowing that God has made both "rich" and "poor" of the same cloth, let us speak out, judge justly, and defend the rights of those whom our society tries to disenfranchise … we pray …
All: Christ, Servant, lead us to life.

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, Servant, lead us to life.

For those who fail to see the face of God in those who are in need, and for the times we have been among them … we pray as Jesus said we should …
All: Christ, Servant, lead us to life.

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.

[After each petition:]
All: Christ, Servant, lead us to life.

[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, Servant, lead us to life.

Closing Presider's Prayer:

Healing God, so many are in desperate need of Your healing spirit: people thrust into wars; your non-human creatures caught in human conflicts; the atmosphere sullied with waste from over-consumption and fumes of war; the very earth itself deeply wounded. Release Your holy, healing spirit. Inspire in us so deep a longing for peace that we abandon warring ways and destructive patterns for service to all life. We pray, ***Amen.***

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Song – "Servant Song" *Gillard*

Will you let me be your servant? Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.

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.

Pray, friends that sharing this bread and cup will enlarge our hearts to serve one another in joy.
We are gathered in Your name. Be with us in our midst.

Prayer with our Gifts

Presider*:*
Giver of life, we come to this feast remembering all who suffer this night. May this bread and wine we share infuse in us a capacity to serve all in need beyond our wildest imagination, reversing oppressive structures and powers, alleviating the impact of violence and greed. 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
We praise You, Source of Life and Goodness, for Your Cosmic Christ, "who fills the universe in all its parts", from the infinite to the infinitesimal; from the farthest stars to our very selves. We praise you for the wonder that Your Christ, who tended the least among us, is now everywhere and in all.

Voice 1 (online)
We thank You for the gift of Jesus, Your servant and Your visionary. He taught us how to act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with You; how to love our neighbor as ourselves; how to honor all creation; and how to loose the bonds of injustice.

Voice 2
Thank You for all Your spirit-filled servants throughout time who made Your vision of life a reality. We join them now in their unending 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.

Voice 3
Human like us, Jesus allowed Your creative, freeing Spirit to move in his life. He freed people to transcend social and religious barriers. He challenged religious leaders to greater service and called religious institutions to authenticity and change.

Voice 4
Jesus lived and died for what he believed: that You are Love; that serving Your people is serving You; that the sacred is found in all people and in all places; and that Love is stronger than death.

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

Presider: And so, Loving One, we praise You through Jesus, Your Holy Servant. We recognize Your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and wine, and in us. We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ, as we now fulfill your command of love. We remember that…

All: ***…on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, blessed the bread, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: "Take this, all of you and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me."***
[Pause]
In the same way, he took the cup, praised You for Your goodness, and said: "Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of my life-blood, the cup of love. Do this in memory of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: *[Sung – Tompkins]*
We remember you. We remember you.
Jesus who loved, lived, and died, rising in our hearts.

Voice 5
We know that Jesus, Servant to all, sought out those who suffer, offering compassion, justice, and healing. And so we remember all who are sick and all who suffer. We remember all those who have died into Your cosmic embrace, now serving You in praise and the world in prayer.

Presider
Gather together people of every gender, sexuality, race, language, religion and way of life to share in Your one, unending banquet. Then, in Your presence, we shall give You glory with all creation and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows.

Through Christ, With Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God of All that is,
all glory and honor are yours, now and always.

The Great Amen *Mass of Renewal, C. Stephan*

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

The Prayer of Jesus *Loreen Wilhelmy*

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

Loving God, in whom is heaven;
May your name be honored everywhere.
May your kin-dom come,

the desire of your heart for the world be done…
in us, by us, and through us.
Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For you reign in the pow'r that comes from love,
which is your glory, forever and ever. 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

Holy Cross Mass, David Clark Iseie

Bread of Life, you call us to the gospel of hope, O Jesus, the Christ.
Word of Love, you call us to the gospel of love, O Jesus, the Christ.
Emmanuel, you call us to the gospel of peace, grant us peace.

Presider:
We are the body of Christ,
called to serve God in creation and one another.
We are happy and blessed to share in this service.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. At Mary Magdalene, 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. Whether you are with us in person or online, we are gathered around Christ's table. May all who share this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. ***Amen!***

Communion Song – "Song of the Body of Christ"

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)***

St Cecelia's Feast Day: Blessing for our Musicians



THANK YOU MMACC MUSICIANS!

Prayer After Communion

*Cosmic Love, we long to be Your servants but acknowledge we are both sheep and goat. Let us not be afraid to serve You, to confront oppression in systems and structures, and to always remember that our service is in the service of Life. Give us courage to face the consequences of serving as Christ the Servant did. Wrap us in Your tender, compassionate love, that we might be the best servants we can. We pray…**Amen.***

Closing Blessing *Anne Kertz Kernion, rendered in 1st pers. pl*

May God always bless us and keep us.

May God's face always shine upon us.
May God look upon us with kindness,
And fill our hearts with peace.
Let the Church say.... ***Amen.***

Sending Forth

This mass is ended. Our service continues.
Thanks be to God!

Closing Song – "We are Called"

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of our God!
We are called to be light for each other,
To live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another; to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more! ***(R)***

Sing! Sing! A new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love! ***(R)***

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We are grateful to have joined together in worship today!

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. We support a full-time paid pastor or pastoral 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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