

Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community
15th Anniversary Year
2005-2020



"A new way to be Roman Catholic"



Worship Aid - Lent 2020
Online Liturgy
Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 22, 2020

"Even in a world being shipwrecked, remain brave and strong."

These words by Hildegard of Bingen, written centuries ago, speak to the tumultuous world we live in. As we journey through Lent, we rest in the knowledge and love of our God who remains with us, through the storms of our lives, guiding us through the wilderness and inspiring us to act with justice and love in our world.

Prelude

instrumental

Welcome

Kori Pacyniak

Opening Song – How Great is Our God

Tomlin

Ce-lestial royalty, clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice all the earth rejoice
God's wrapped in starry light and sings into the night
We tremble at this voice, tremble at the voice

***How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God and all will see
How great, how great is our God***

Age to age God stands, and time is in God hands
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end.
God's own divinity, dwells in humanity
Lion and the Lamb, Lion and the Lamb

***How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God.***

Name above all names. here we offer praise
Our hearts will sing, how great is our God.

Opening Rite

We begin our liturgy by blessing the name of our God with the sign of our faith:
+ In the name of God, who is Speaker, Word, & Breath. **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

God, who leads us through the wilderness of life, we pause for a moment to
remember the times this past week when our lives have not been centered on you.

God of our Journey, we often are afraid to live in the freedom of Your Spirit within us. ***Strengthen our hearts to freedom.***

Jesus the Way, we often are afraid to trust in your promise to be with us always. ***Strengthen our hearts to trust.***

God of Life, we often are afraid to live as Your prophetic community in our world. ***Strengthen our hearts to live without fear.***

Source of Life, embrace us in Your Love. Nourish us with food for the journey. Encourage us on our way. Empower us with endurance to the finish. ***Amen.***

Opening Prayerⁱ

Holy One, let us rest in you. Take from us the tension that makes peace impossible. Take from us the fears that prevent us from loving one another. Take from us the worries that blind our sight. Take from us the distress that hides Your joy. Help us to know that You are with us and among us, and that we are always in Your care, now and forever. ***Amen.***

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading – 1 Samuel 16:7 + 18:9, 20-22, 27-29; 19:11-17

A Reading from First Book of Samuel

Although he was of low position, God chose David to replace Saul as Ruler of Israel, saying, "Pay no attention to appearances and stature. God does not see as humans see. People look at the outward appearance. God looks at the heart." Saul was jealous of David and wanted him dead.

Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. When Saul heard, he was pleased. He thought, "Yes, I will give her to him. She can be the snare for him so that it won't be my hand that is against him, but the hand of the Philistines." (On one other occasion, Saul told David, "Today, you shall be my son-in-law", but David refused because his lineage was not royal and he did not deem himself worthy.) Saul gave instructions to his servants, "Have a private word with David, and say, 'See how the Ruler is delighted with you, and all of his servants love you. It's time for you to marry into the royal family.'"

Knowing that marrying the ruler's daughter was no trivial matter, David again refused on account of having neither wealth nor position to offer. When the servants reported this, Saul said, "Tell David this: 'The ruler desires no other bride-price except the foreskins of one hundred Philistines.'" David was very pleased at the prospect of marrying Michal. With these terms, he could do so with honor. Saul, however, was counting on David's death at the hand of the Philistines.

No time was lost before David made ready, galvanized his fighting force and went to war against the Philistines. David killed two hundred Philistines, brought back their foreskins and counted them out before Saul. Saul, then, had to sanction the marriage between Michal and David.

Having failed in using Michal as bait, Saul decided to have David killed himself. Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. Michal warned her husband, "If you don't escape tonight, you'll be a dead man tomorrow!" Michal then let David down through the window so that he was able to flee and escape to safety. Michal then took their household god, laid it on the bed, put a tress of goats' hair at the head of the bed, and covered it with a blanket.

When Saul sent officers to arrest David, Michal said, "He's sick." Saul sent the officers back to see David, with the words: "Bring him to me on his bed, so that I can kill him!" When the messengers entered, they found the statue in the bed, with the tross of goat's hair at its head. Saul asked Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this? You let my enemy get away, assisting his escape!" Michal replied to Saul, "David threatened me, saying 'Let me go! Or shall I kill you?'"

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 83 Response *[Sung]*

Marohnic

Refrain: When trouble comes, do not be silent.

When trouble comes, be not afraid.

O Beloved, Giver of Life,
Clothe us in the dress of your peace
and the stronghold of your mercy
that we might bear the power of Love.

***R: When trouble comes, do not be silent.
When trouble comes, be not afraid.***

Let us walk in shoes of integrity
and don the mantle of truth.
Let us shed the tatters of anger and fear,
the rags of anger and greed.

***R: When trouble comes, do not be silent.
When trouble comes, be not afraid.***

Let us say,
"We shall seek only the truth
which will set us free."

***R: When trouble comes, do not be silent.
When trouble comes, be not afraid. X2***

Second Reading An Excerpt from *Dear Church* by Lenny Duncan

A Reading from "Dear Church: A Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in America" by the Rev. Lenny Duncan,

Dear church, our churches are bastions of whiteness –
...they sit and wonder why no one is attending and why no one walks up to the front door. While it is avant-garde to blame the post-Christian era for a lack of new membership, I think other factors are just as important.

Dear church, your leaders have failed you. We have failed you. I have failed you... there are countless ways we can change the story and truly begin to do the work of Jesus...

We put money and resources toward what we care about in this church. If you want to know what a denomination truly thinks is the gospel, follow the money.

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

[Moment of Silence]

Gospel Acclamation [Sung]

Booth

Glory to you, Word of God, Jesus the Christ.

Gospel - John 9:1-3, 5-17, 24-41

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

A reading from the Gospel attributed to John. **Glory to You, O God.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, "Rabbi, was it this person's sin that caused the blindness or that of the parents?" "Neither," Jesus answered. "It wasn't because of anyone's sin - not this person's nor the parents'. It was so God's works might be made visible through this child of God... While I am here, I must make God visible in the world."

With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared it on the eyes of the one born blind. Then Jesus said, "Go. Wash in the pool of Siloam", which means "sent." So the person went off to wash and returned, able to see.

Neighbors, and those who had gotten used to seeing the blind beggar, began to ask, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said "yes." Others said "no", that the one who had been healed only looked like the beggar. But the one whose vision had been restored said, "Yes. I am the one." Then the people asked, "Then how were your eyes opened?" The answer came, "The one they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash. When I went and washed, I was able to see." "Where is Jesus?" they asked. The person replied, "I don't know."

Then they took the one who had been born blind to the Pharisees. It was on the Sabbath that Jesus made the healing mud paste for the one born blind. The Pharisees asked how the person came to see. The person again answered, "Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off. Now I can see." This prompted some Pharisees to say, "This Jesus is not from God because he doesn't keep the Sabbath." Others argued, "But how could a sinner perform signs like these?" They were sharply divided. They asked again, "What do you have to say about Jesus, since he opened your eyes?" The one born blind said, "Jesus is a prophet".

...A second time the Pharisees summoned the one born blind and said, "Give glory to God for this deed, not that Jesus who is a sinner." The one born blind said, "I don't know whether Jesus is a sinner or not. I only know that I was blind and now I see." They persisted, "Just what happened? How were your eyes opened?" "I already told you, but you won't listen to me. Why do you want to hear it all over again? Do you want to become disciples of Jesus too?" They retorted scornfully, "You're the one who is Jesus' disciple. We're Moses' disciples. We know God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this Jesus comes from." The one born blind retorted, "That is what is so amazing! You are blind to where Jesus is from even though he opened my eyes! You say that God does not listen to sinners. You say God listens to those who are devout and who do the desire of God's heart. It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. If Jesus were not from God, he could never have done such a thing!" "What!" they exclaimed. "You are steeped in sin, and have been from birth, and you're teaching us?" With that they kicked out the accused.

When Jesus heard of the expulsion, he sought out the one whose sight had been restored and asked, "Do you believe in the Chosen One?" "Who is the Chosen One that I may believe?" "You're looking at him," Jesus replied. "The Chosen One is speaking to you now." The healed one said, "Yes, I believe," and praised Jesus. Jesus said, "I came into this world to bring justice, so that those who are blind might see, and those who do see become blind."

Some Pharisees who were nearby heard this and said, "You're not calling us blind, are you?" To which Jesus replied, "If you were blind, there would be no sin in that. But since you say, "We see", your sin remains.

The Gospel of God.

Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.

Homily

Bishop Jane Via

[Moment of Silence]

Prayers of the Faithful

“God does not see as humans see; God looks at the heart.” “Chaos is yielding to new insight through which you will see and understand differently.” “I only know that I was blind, and now I see.” Let us be thankful for what we have come to be able to see, and ask God for all that we and the world need, on this Laetare Sunday, when we are called to be joyful despite everything.

Our response: ***Remain brave and strong. I am with you always.***

That at this mid-point of our Lenten observance we may come to see that “whoever chooses to love is truly understanding” ... we pray ... (Response)

That we learn to fast from ways of living that cause harm to the poorest and most vulnerable among us ... we pray ... (Response)

That we may find the joy, courage, and wisdom to face the health and economic challenges imposed upon us all, and to reduce our heart-distance even as we must increase our physical distance from one another ... we pray ... (Response)

In deep appreciation for this prayerful season of Lent, for the winter and spring rains that have greened up our fields and hillsides, and for the renewing flow of Baptismal waters on us ... we pray ... (Response)

For all those who oppose and oppress us, or any of our human family, or our Mother Earth anywhere ... we pray as Jesus said we should ... (Response)

Now it is time to bring to God the special prayers of our Lenten renewal community of joys and sorrows.

Let us call to mind, and speak aloud softly, the names of those who are sick or in pain, and those facing surgery and other medical interventions. We are especially mindful of all who are affected by the coronavirus in any way.

Let us now take a moment to remember all the prayers and intentions here today that have remained unspoken, deep in the silence of our hearts . . .

For these intentions and for all the prayers written in our community prayer book . . . we pray ... (Response)

God of joy and sorrow, in this time of uncertainty, strengthen our commitment to love and care for one another. Remove that which blinds us, comfort us in our sorrow, and reassure us that we are never alone, despite the distance that might separate us. Help us to always remain brave and strong, we pray.. **Amen.**

Offertory Song: *Healing Waters*

Thomsom

***Healing waters, flow over me. Living water, refreshing me.
Mys-t'ry's ocean, transforming me. Healing water, renew me.***

Flow through my heart, O God. Come beat inside my heart.
Come fill my heart with your compassion. You are the water of life.
You are the breath of heaven, Together we renew cre-a-tion, God. **R**

Wash us in waters of love; heal us, reveal we're holy,
for only you can heal all, God. Wash over us, O Love.
Refresh our thirsty souls for you alone can make us whole, O God. **R**

OUR EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Bread and Wine

Blessed are you, Father of all, in all things you have made:
in plants and animals, in all people, and in all the wonders of creation.
Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you, Mother of all, for the food we eat; for this bread and wine,
for our families and community, and for laughter and joy in Your presence.
Blessed be God forever.

Friends, pray that sharing this bread and wine will deepen our commitment to transform our world.

We commit ourselves to this transformation.

Prayer with our gifts

Holy One, bless these gifts of bread and wine on behalf of us and your whole church worldwide and make of us an everlasting gift to you. Unite us, wherever we may be, by this spiritual communion. We ask this through Jesus the Christ... **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

God dwells in you. ***And also in you.***

Let us give thanks to the One who guides our life together.

It is our joy to offer gratitude and praise.

God, you never promised us that the way would be clear. You created us in Your image - the image of One who is Wisdom, who is Love, who is Courage. You breathed Your life into us with the assurance that we have, within and around us, everything we need to be Your faithful people. Though we sometimes act in disregard for Your call on our collective life, still You show up with and for us, relentlessly. And so we join our voices with all who have gone before in gratitude for Your abiding presence:

Sanctus *[Sung]*

Booth

Holy, Holy, Holy God, O God, our God, Spirit and Life

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are all who come in the name of our God.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Sacred is Your presence and blessed is the Christ with us. Through the life of Jesus we saw an example of what it means to navigate an uncertain path, practice creative ministry, and face with courage and compassion all the barriers that work against Your Spirit on the move. Though evil attempted to silence his proclamation of an all-inclusive Kin-dom of God, not even death could keep Love from growing.

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

We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts. May this bread and wine become for us the body and blood of Jesus, a tangible sign of the incarnation, and sustenance for our Lenten journey. We remember...

All:

***That same bread, Jesus took and broke,
to restore the unity of our broken world.
Jesus blessed you, God of healing and hope,
then shared the bread with those at table, saying:
Take this all of you and eat.
This is my body which will be given up for you.***

[Pause]

***Then offering the cup of libation,
poured out for the liberation of all,
Jesus gave thanks and shared the cup
in a spirit of mutual solidarity saying:
Take this all of you and drink from it.
This is the cup of my life-blood, the cup of my love,
the new and everlasting covenant.
In prophetic solidarity, it is poured out for you and for all.
Sustain one another in the power of sacred memory.***

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

***When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, O Jesus, until you come again.***

We remember all people who touched our lives with the Spirit of Your love.

Vemos Tu mano sagrada y resplandeciente tanto en la gloria como en el sufrimiento que experimentamos. Acompaña a todos los que han muerto y se han ido antes de nosotros en la plenitud de la vida con Tu. Libéranos para que podamos vivir una vida sin miedo, en el misterio de Tu amor y Tu presencia.

[We see Your sacredness shining through both the glory and the pain that we experience. Be with all who are sick and with all who are suffering. Be with all who have died and gone before us into the fullness of Life with You. Free us to live without fear in the mystery of Your love and presence.]

Holy One, gather together people of every gender, race, language, religion and way of life to share in Your one, eternal banquet. In Your presence, we give You glory with all creation and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows.

Great Amen

***In the name of God, Source of Life,
In the name of Jesus, Source of Transformation
In the name of the Spirit, Source of Freedom,
We offer our prayer of praise, this day and forever.***

[Sung]

Booth

Amen, Amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

The Prayer of Jesus

The prayer often called the "Our Father" has been translated and rendered in many ways over the last 2,000 years. MMACC uses this contemporary version during Lent adapted from our friends at enfleshed.org.

Loving Creator of us all,

who dwells within and beyond,

Sacred is your name.

***May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.***

***May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be enfleshed on
earth.***

***Provide us today with what we need
to be nourished in body, soul, and heart.***

***Forgive us for the harm we cause
as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.***

***Lead us away from everything that destroys
and liberate us from the hands of evil.***

For you are the ultimate source of hope.

Your power-with exceeds all power-over.

Your presence incites eternal wonder.

All praise to you, our comfort and strength. Amen.

The Sign of Peace

May God's peace be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us reach out with our hearts to offer one another, and the world, God's peace.

[pause]

Lamb of God [Sung]

Booth

Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Hope. O Lamb of God.

Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Love. O Lamb of God.

Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Peace.

O Lamb of God. Grant us peace.

This is God's holy bread for the transformation of God's holy people.

We are blessed to share in this transformation.

This is Jesus' table. He made no restrictions and neither do we. May all who share with us in this spiritual communion be united with us in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. ***Amen.***

Communion Song – Still

Morgan

Hide me now under Your wings
Shelter me within Your tender hand.

When the oceans rise and thunders roar,

I will soar with you above the storm.

For you are the peace surpassing all.

I will be still and know You are God.

Find rest my soul, in Christ alone
Know Love's power in quietness and trust.

When the oceans rise and thunders roar,

I will soar with you above the storm.

For you are the peace surpassing all.

I will be still and know You are God.

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar,
I will soar with you above the storm.
For you are the peace surpassing all.
I will be still and know You are God.
I will be still and know You are God.*

[Moment of Silence]

CLOSING RITE

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, unite us in this spiritual communion wherever we may be. Help us to see and feel Your presence and love, even when we are blinded by fear and anxiety. Keep us safe from all harm, bound in community by your love. Help us to do all that we can to protect and care for one another and for those most vulnerable among us. We pray in the name of Christ the healer... **Amen.**

Closing Blessingⁱⁱ

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world,
bless your eyes and be in your seeing.

May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love,
bless your eyes and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be,
bless your eyes and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three bless your eyes and cause you to see. **Amen.**

Sending Forth

Our mass has ended. Our service continues. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song: Give Us Your Peace

*Give us your peace, O God; give us your peace, your peace.
Give us your peace, O God; give us your peace, your peace.*

Manibusan

When we're afraid, running from truth, gather us back to you.
Take every fear and fill our hearts, Give us your peace, O God.

**Refrain: Give us your peace, O God; give us your peace, your peace.
Give us your peace, O God; give us your peace, your peace.**

When we are tired, weary, and worn, take us into your arms,
where there is no need, there is no want. Give us your peace, O God. **R**

God, we belong to you alone; show us the way back home
into the warmth, into your love. Give us your peace, O God **R**

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Eucharistic Prayer adapted from enfleshed.com*

ⁱ Adapted from "Take from Me" by David Adam <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>

ⁱⁱ "May God Bless Your Eyes" by Jan Richardson, <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>