



**Mary of Magdala, ECC—May 25 , 2025**  
**Celebrating Ascension Sunday and Sixth Sunday of the Easter**  
**Season – All Together Everywhere**  
**Reverend Jane Reina Presiding**

**Welcome and Announcements**     *Lector David Cloyd*  
**Entrance Song**     **Shouts of Joy (R; V1; R; V2; R)**

**Greeting**

Welcome to the 6th Sunday in the Easter Season and the feast of the Ascension. For the disciples, this has been a road filled with trauma and grief, and with incredulous sightings of the Risen Jesus who appears to them in materiality again! And it's not over, for they experience the power of God taking the Christ from them, to their bewilderment, and then they experience the power of God by recognizing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit: a new power within the people. Will our yearning for God and our wonderment at even the thought of God ever be exhausted?

Let us continue in yearning and in wonderment as one expression of God's presence:

+In the name of the Creating Mystery, the Risen and now Ascended Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia.     **All: Amen.**

**Penitential Rite**

In humble gratitude for God's unconditional love we pray:

**All: Together, we turn back to you, O Christ, knowing you welcome us even in the midst of our turning, just by our intention to turn. Bless us with an *experience* of your acceptance of us, an acceptance with love and warmth so deeply penetrating that it can move us to forgive ourselves and others.**

Jesus, your disciples were together in prayer as you ascended into the Sacred Mystery. You, the Christ, always faithful, promised to send a new power to help them follow your Way. As we too falter in following your Way, may that same power bring us back to You.

**All: Jesus, give us the grace to return to You.**

Christ, your Ascension calls us to return to the heart of God.



**All: Christ, give us the grace to return to You.**

Holy Mystery, Jesus showed us your heart. Help us to return to you through a life of self-emptying in the way of Jesus.

**All: Holy Mystery, give us the grace to return to You.**

Mystery of Love, help us to see ourselves through your eyes of love. By your grace may we find in ourselves what bears good fruit and also what does not bear good fruit. For this wisdom we give you thanks. **All: Amen.**

Let us lift our voices in praise and glory of the Ascended Christ!

**Glory to God** *Mass of the Desert*

**Opening Prayer** Let us pray:

Ascended Christ, at Easter we rose anew with you and from the Easter Flame may we carry Flames of your love into the world. Although You seem to be leaving humanity again, we know You remain within us and we within you in this Holy Mystery. Let the flame of Love, the Essence of all Creation, continue to ignite us in your service. Holy One, receive our prayer.

**All: Amen**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Please be seated as we listen to the Word of God.

**First Reading** Ephesians 1:17-23 *Lector David Cloyd*

May the God of Jesus the Christ, the Source of All Glory, 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*, so 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 power that is exercised for those of us who believe.

The same power that was at work in Jesus the Christ, the power which God exercised in raising him from the dead and setting him high in the heavens, this Christ is now a cosmic presence exceeding every principality, ruling force, power and dominion; far above every name that is named not only in this age and the age to come. The Cosmic Christ has the final word. God put all things in care of Christ and made the Christ, who is in all thing, the head of the church, which is Christ's body. The Cosmic Christ is the fullness of the One who fills everything in every way.



The Word of a Disciple of Paul. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** 68: 2a,33-36 *Lector David Cloyd*

**Our response is: Blessed be God forever.**

Rise up, O God! Lead us on!

All peoples of Earth, sing to God!

Chant the praises of God,

Who rides the heights of the ancient heavens,

Who sends forth a resounding voice

Echoing throughout the Cosmos.

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

Confess the wonder-working power of God,

Whose majesty protects,

Whose power is cosmic.

Awesome is the God of the Cosmos,

the God also of Earth and its peoples,

Who gives courage and strength to humanity.

**All: Blessed by God forever.**

**Second Reading** *Ascension Morning* by Ann Johnson, from *Miryam of Nazareth, Woman of Strength and Wisdom*. *Lector Linda Joyce*

“Why do you stand there looking at the sky?”

Because my eyes are clinging to the swirling morning mist

that has enveloped him...

the risen one...the Hope.

Because my ears are searching in the gusty wind

for one more word to ground me here...

a word of firmament...a holding sound.

Because my heart is sailing high in the whipping breeze

dodging and dancing with my heart of hearts...

and I am heartless...at the moment.

“Why do you stand there looking at the sky?”

Because the sky has taken him away.

Will he not come again from just such a sky?

Is it not right that I keep watch?

Here would I stay forever



fasting, praising constantly,  
eyes fixed upon the heavens,  
just to catch a glimpse of him.  
I would remain fixed in this moment,  
in this place.  
I would capture forever the feeling and hold it like a  
flickering oil lamp in my cupped hands.  
Guarding the place, and the light, and the moment,  
I have a purpose.  
I am relieved from daily living in uncertainty.

The moment and the feeling  
I will take with me and  
Share with those I meet along the way.  
And in the sharing I will return in heart and mind  
bringing with me others who watch a while with you.  
Stay hidden, Rabboni, if that is your way.  
See how long you can resist our company,  
our silence, our prayer,  
our festival, our work,  
our dance, and the deep joy and of our embracing.  
You in our moments,  
We in you,  
The risen one  
Beloved Teacher.

Words inspired by God      **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**    **Alleluia** (R: V1; R) (*Mass of the Desert*)

**Gospel**    Acts of the Apostles 1:1-14  
The Word of Christ is within you all.    **All: And also within you.**  
A proclamation of the gospel attributed to Luke. **All: Glory to you, O God.**

In the first book, Theophilis, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning, until the day he gave the apostles instruction through the Holy Spirit and was taken up into the heavens.



After his suffering and death, Jesus showed himself alive to them in many ways, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking of the Reign of God. While at table with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what our loving God had promised. “The promise is,” Jesus said, “what you have heard me speak about: 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 him, “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 receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he said this, as they were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward the sky, two people in white robes suddenly stood by them. They said, “You of Galilee, why do you stand looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken 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, along with the women and with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with Jesus’ siblings. The Good News of Resurrection Hope.

**All: Praise to you, Ascended Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Homily** Pastor Jane

### **Prayers of the People**

O God, you know our needs even before we know them. Hear our prayers:

*Lector Linda Joyce*

**Our Response today is: Creator God, receive our prayers.**

For the 301 Faith Partners, all churches and faith traditions, that they may lead the way in showing compassion and love to all people, we pray,

**Response: Creator God, receive our prayers.**

For all people recovering from natural disasters, tornados, fires, floods, and drought, that they may receive the help they need to rebuild their communities, we pray, **Response: Creator God, receive our prayers.**

For all farmers and ranchers as they begin the seasons of growth for their crops and animals, that the rains may come as needed, the winds be gentle, the sun warm, and the marketplaces open for their harvests, we pray,



**Response: Creator God, receive our prayers.**

The prayers from those in the sanctuary...we pray,

**Response: Creator God, receive our prayers.**

Are there prayers of those joining us on zoom?...we pray,

**Response: Creator God, receive our prayers.**

For all the people on our prayer lists and the prayers we hold in our hearts, we pray...**Response: Creator God, receive our prayers.**

Rev. Jane...

O Compassionate God, as the disciples prayed constantly together, so we pray together here now for our planet Earth and all its Life, and for all our relationships, familial, local, national and global. May our prayers rise as Christ Ascends to your praise and glorify. **All: Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace be with you. My peace I give you." May the peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

Please turn and share a sign of peace with our siblings here virtually and then turn to share with one another.

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

As we prepare our tables with the food we have, here and at home, we are reminded that our offerings of time, talent, and treasure, sustain the mission of God's church. Please continue to give as you are called and able.

Let us sing together.

**Offertory Song    Benediction** (V1; V2; V3; V4)

Procession of the Bread and Wine by Eucharistic Ministers

**Preparation of the Gifts** (*During Offertory Song*) Blessed are you, God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread and wine, originating as star dust and evolving to these gifts which the earth produced as wheat and grapes and which human hands have transformed to bread and wine. May they become for us the sacred nourishment we seek. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

By the mystery of this water and wine, we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

*Wash hands of presider.*



## **Prayer over the Gifts**

Pray, my siblings, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God.

**All: May God accept the sacrifice at our hands, for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's Creation.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Ascended Christ is within You. **All: And also within You.**

Let us open our hearts.

**All: We open our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to our Loving God. **All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just always and everywhere to give you thanks, mysterious and eternal God, You who hold all things together in yourself. For Jesus the Christ after his Rising appeared to his disciples once again and was taken up to heaven within their sight. This is so that they and we might share in the Holy Spirit to come. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people, all creation and the entire Communion of Saints, praise you, O God, as together we sing the unending hymn of praise.

## **Holy** *(Mass of the Desert)*

Flowing from the Exquisite Love visible and invisible throughout the entire cosmos, send your Holy Spirit to bring us and our planet to wholeness. Sanctify these gifts of bread and wine ++, that they may become the Body and Blood of Jesus our Christ.

Together, we the Body of Christ, remember what Jesus did at table before he was betrayed and died. Among friends, gathered round a table, He took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**All: Take this all of you, and eat it:**

**This is my body, which will be given up for you.**

When supper was ended, he took the cup; again he gave you thanks, and handing the cup to his disciples, said:

**All: Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

## **Memorial Acclamation** *(Mass of the Desert)*



God of Love, through Christ you have entrusted us with this Passover Meal, this pledge of Love. Together then with people of every faith and no faith, we remember that LOVE is our salvation, not our possession.

Remember, O Christ, those who have died and are now rising with you this Season. In the brilliance of your Resurrection, they live on in eternal joy! As we yearn for that same brilliance, together now we pray:

**All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, now and forever.**

**Amen**      *Mass of the Desert*

### **The Prayer of Jesus**

Please turn to the camera and let us join our hearts together as we pray the words that Jesus gave us...

**All: Abba/Amma, God in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen**

### **The Shared Table**

**Lamb of God**      *Mass of the Desert*

This is the Body and Blood of the Risen and Ascended Christ. This is the one who transforms the world. Blessed are we who are called to this meal.

**All: Jesus, I am ready to receive you, because by your invitation, I am here.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

As we rejoice in our coming together in this fiery energy of love, let us affirm:

**All: In this we are a Eucharistic people, the Body of Christ incarnate, the Blood of Christ poured out for the life of the world.**

Whether sharing this meal here, or at home, this nourishment from God is for all of us without exception. All are welcome at this feast of Love.

*(remind about gluten-free hosts)*

**Communion Song**      **Remain In Me** (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray...The invitations to this feast went out and the RSVP's received. The feast was served, the guests celebrated. The carefully prepared meal was eaten. We are ever so thankful for this generous gift of Love! You invited us back! We will come again. **All: Alleluia! Amen!**

Blessing for Dori Healy and Jim Berry



**All: Gracious and Loving God, (see screen...) ...May they each receive the flow of grace from our hands to their hearts and souls. May it be so...**

### **Concluding Rite and Dismissal**

The peace of our God is within you. **All: And also within you.**

Let us open our hearts and receive God's blessing...

May the Holy One bless our community with the grace to grow into fullness.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

May the Holy One bless you to abide in your own agency and by your own conscience as the people of God called to a royal priesthood. **All: Alleluia! Amen.**

May the Holy One bless you as Christians known by your Love.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

In the name of Amma/Abba God, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia.

**All: Amen**

Go now to empty your hearts into the world. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia!**

**Closing Song    We Are The Light (R; R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)**