



Mary of Magdala, ECC Sunday Service – July 12, 2020 Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Greeting and Announcements – Lector Lynne Barnes

Opening Song (please, join in while muted with Bill Smith)

Rain Down

Refrain

Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love, God of life.

1. Faithful and true is the word of our God.
All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right;
full of God's love is the earth.

2. We who revere and find hope in our God
live in the kindness and joy of God's wing.

God will protect us from darkness and death;
God will not leave us to starve.

3. God of creation, we long for your truth;
you are the water of life that we thirst.
Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,
all of our hope lies in you.

Text: Based on Psalm 33. Text and music © 1991, Jaime Cortez. Published by OCP. All rights reserved...

Greeting – Deacon Rosean

Let us begin as one expression of God's people. + Father, Son, Holy Spirit. **ALL: AMEN**

May the Holy Kiss of God, the tender care of the Incarnation, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: And, also with you**

Penitential Rite – Deacon Rosean

For ourselves and others when life makes us
hard and resistant like a well-trodden path
where old habits, old systems and old patterns
of thinking keep your message from growing,
Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

For ourselves and others when we become so
immersed in the short-lived, shallow, rock-
hiding soil of the moment where Your life too
easily gets blown away by the wind, Christ
have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

For ourselves and others when our fears,
insecurities, desires and self-absorption tangle

like thorns around Your grace and choke it into
silence, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Christ Jesus,
As the earth welcomes seed,
we would like to welcome your Word.
In long moments of silence...

By day and by night...
It begins to grow within us,
without our knowing how,

And so, you make us women and men of
communion.
Amen



Opening Prayer *by Christine Longhurst*

Deacon Rosean

Let us pray:

O God,

We gather together in Your presence with expectation,
hungry for an encounter with You,
eager to hear your Word.

Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.
May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us fall on fertile soil.

May they take root in our hearts and lives,
and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our brother Amen

All: Amen

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading Isaiah 55:10–11 *Lector Lynne Barnes*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the sower and bread for food,

So will my word be that goes forth from my mouth.

It will not return to me empty, but will carry out my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of God

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm 65– *Lector Lynne Barnes*

The Response is: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You have visited the land and watered it; greatly have you enriched it. God's watercourses are filled; you have prepared the grain.

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Thus, have you prepared the land: drenching its furrows, breaking up its clods, softening it with showers, blessing its yield.

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.



You have crowned the year with your bounty,
and your paths overflow with a rich harvest;
the untilled meadows overflow with it, and
rejoicing clothes the hills.

**Response: The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.**

The fields are garmented with flocks and the
valleys blanketed with grain.
They shout and sing for joy.

**Response: The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.**

2nd Reading: Romans 18:18-23

A letter of Paul to the Romans – Lector Ruth Alexander

Brothers and sisters, I consider the sufferings
of the present to be nothing compared with
the glory that will be revealed in us. All
creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the
children of God. Creation was subjected to
transience and futility, not of its own accord,
but because of the One who once subjected it -
- in the hope that creation itself would be freed
from its slavery to corruption, and would share
in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that from the beginning until now, all
of creation has been groaning in one great act
of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of
us who possess the first fruits of the Spirit—we
too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies
to be set free.

The Word of God
ALL: Thanks be to God

The 'Alleluia' – Sung by Bill Smith (please join in while muted)

Refrain

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia

VERSE:

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;

You have the words of everlasting life..

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Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-9 – Pastor Jane

The Lord be with you.
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down
by the lake shore. Such great crowds gathered

All: And also with you
All: Glory to you, O God

that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the
crowd stood along the shore.



He addressed them at length in parables:

One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the seed

fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it landed on good soil and yielded a crop thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown.

Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!

The Gospel of our God.

All: Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Homily - Deacon Rosean

Creed/Statement of Belief- Deacon Rosean

Introduction by Deacon Rosean. **ALL to read the statement together**

The Social and Ecological Justice Ministries of the three congregations worshipping at Trinity Lutheran Church find ourselves moved by love to respond to the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis. We believe that this is a human justice concern and, as such, cannot be ignored. In looking to the Bible, we see in **Micah 6:8 "He has told you O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."**

We confess our own complicity in systemic racism and racial bias. We confess that we have not done enough to engage in the difficult work of examining our own personal bias. While hearing about white privilege, we have been complacent with the status quo as it makes life easier for many of us. The presence of racism is woven into the fabric of life in the United States, destroying hope and opportunity for others in our midst. We confess our lack of educating ourselves about government policies throughout our history that have denied equal access to

home ownership, quality education, equitable health care, safe places to live and fair treatment in the justice system. This is not a call to feel guilty which only leads to defensiveness or denial of real problems to make ourselves feel better. Instead, this is a call to focus beyond ourselves toward others with love and compassion.

Recent events have made it glaringly apparent that justice has not been equally given to all in our country. In already difficult times like these that threaten to divide and destroy us, we feel it essential to call our congregations together to promote unity. We are encouraged by the swift bipartisan passage of SB 217 in our state to legally change policing policies but are aware that the culture and purpose of policing in the United States must also change.

As a ministry group in the church, we are hopeful that you will join us in the following:

- praying for spiritual guidance
- educating ourselves on systemic racism



- naming racist comments or actions in the community, among friends, in social media
- contacting legislators on pending bills
- actively advocating that police become guardians not warriors
- supporting efforts at restorative rather than punitive justice

This letter is a challenge to you to join with us in making a difference.

We pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will guide us in this endeavor.

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good” Romans 12:9

Prayers of the People

Deacon Rosean: - Having been called to action by the word of God, let us respond in prayer for our needs and those of a broken and restless world

Lector: Ruth Alexander –

The response for the “Prayers of the People” will be: Loving God, strengthen us to act.

ALL: Loving God, strengthen us to act.

For all of those called to leadership within the world, the church, and our community, that they might listen to God’s word and respond to the needs for justice and equality among all peoples, we pray

Response: Loving God, strengthen us to act.

For farmers, field workers, and gardeners, that their efforts will supply nourishing food for all in need and apply caring practices to replenish and sustain the Earth, we pray **Response: Loving God, strengthen us to act.**

For our community of Mary of Magdala, that we might be courageous in responding to our commitment to stand in solidarity with the Black community and people of color, we pray.

Response: Loving God, strengthen us to act.

For each of us, that we will open our ears to hear God’s words and our eyes to see God’s ways, we pray. **Response: Loving God, strengthen us to act.**

Now I invite you to share your prayers so that we may pray in community with you. If you feel comfortable, you could press the space bar and say your prayer, OR you could type the prayer into the chat box (*David will read each prayer on “chat”*)we pray, **Response: Loving God, strengthen us to act.**

And for all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray. **Response: Loving God, strengthen us to act.**

Deacon Rosean–

God of never-failing love and compassion, you provide us with all we need to grow and thrive in the life of discipleship. Hear our prayers that in studying your Word and living lives of service to you and our neighbor, we might come to life everlasting. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



All: Amen.

Sign of Peace

Pastor Jane – The Love of God the Gift of Christ be with you.

All: And, also with you

Let us all go to “gallery view” on our screens and share with one another the sign of Christ’s peace. (*All are unmuted to share a sign of peace.*)

Our Celebration of God with Food– *Deacon Rosean*

The Lord be with you
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: And, also with you.
All: We lift them up to God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you loving God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this food
before us. May we offer our gratitude for all
the ways you nurture us body, mind, and spirit.
We bless you God with our gratitude, we give
you thanks for the myriad of ways you show up
in our lives as both creator and creation. We
thank you for all that is, and for the breath of
life that is You throughout the cosmos.

Even in these strange and challenging times
you sow your Word abundantly among us that
we may experience your grace, mercy, and
forgiveness.

Creator of all, you have invited each of us here
today and so we gather at your tables. Give us a
hunger and thirst for justice, fill our hearts with
love overflowing with your grace, and give us a
vision of your glory. We come to you, Mother/
Father God, with praise and thanksgiving
through Jesus Christ your Son. We ask you to
accept and bless these gifts we offer you in
love. May this food before us be a blessing to
our bodies that our bodies may be a blessing to
your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

HAIL MARY AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (*all together on mute*)

Pastor Jane – Let us turn to God in prayer. Let us pray together both the Hail Mary and the prayer known as the Lord’s Prayer.

**ALL: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are thou among women, and blessed is
the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother
of God, pray for us, now and at the hour of our
death. Amen**

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your
name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on
earth as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us, and let us not enter into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours now and forever. Amen.**



Reception for Spiritual Communion – Deacon Rosean

Before we share in eating the food on our tables, I'd like to remind you that God invited you here today. Wherever you are on your journey, God is with you. Let us share together these words of celebration of God with the food God has provided:

ALL: Jesus, our hearts are your tabernacle. You live in us. You love in us. Come now, and visit us with Your grace. Make us to be more like You. May we receive Your fullness in this food as You

**desire. May we become Your Body in the world today.
Amen**

Our homes and our hearts are a dwelling place for God. The Christ-child is in each of us. The food before us is sacrament, and God's grace is abundant and in our midst.

Please spend a moment now sharing food with God, knowing that God is present with you and God's grace is abundant.

Communion Song --(please join in while muted) Christ in Me Arise

Refrain

Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.
Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.

1. Be now my vision; open these eyes,
showing me all that I must see.
Onward to the kingdom, you are the way.
Arise in me and I shall rise with you.

2. Be now my footsteps, leading the way,
taking me where I must go.
Onward to the kingdom, you are the way.
Arise in me and I shall rise with you.

Bridge

You know my heart and you know my ways,
you who formed me in my mother's womb.
I live and move in you, my whole being thrives in you.

Final Refrain

Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.
Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.
Christ in me arise, Christ in me arise,
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.

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Prayer after the meal

Deacon Rosean - Let us Pray:

We thank you God of heaven and earth that you have fed us in a way that nurtures the seeds within our souls. Enliven us by your presence among us at this meal that we may

be your presence in the world through Jesus Christ, our brother.

ALL: Amen

Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop – Pastor Jane



**ALL: Holy One,
Enlivening Spirit,
In the wilderness of new,
root the Body of Christ**

**fully into our "Yes,"
blooming in Your Holy Season.
Together.
Amen.**

Blessing —*Deacon Rosean*

The Love of God be with you all

ALL And also with you.

Please open you hearts as we ask for God's blessing

May God the sower make us good and fruitful soil.

And may Amma/ Abba God, the son Jesus our brother, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

May Christ the seed bloom and grow in our words and actions.

ALL: Amen

May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in our life.

Dismissal

Pastor Jane

We are a Light of the Nations. As that Light, may we love and serve God as we get to love and serve in God's world. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song — *please remain muted*

Can We Love

Refrain

Can we love?
Can we lay down our lives?
Can we wear his crown of thorns?
Can we drink the cup that He drinks?
We must lay down our lives!

1. It's more than raising our hands,
it's more than singing this song.
It's saying "yes" to the Giver of life,
it's righting the ways that are wrong!

2. It's more than shouting God's name,
it's more than singing His praise.
It's bringing forgiveness to injury's wound,

and hope to those imprisoned by shame.

3. Loving the Lord our God
with all our heart, mind and soul,
loving our neighbor as ourselves,
the kingdom of love we will know!

4. With feet secure on the ground
and hearts humbled by love
we stand before God's anointed one
and ask the question, and ask the question:

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Zoom will remain open after the service for community to visit.