Mary of Magdala, ECC –- March 15, 2026
Celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Lent –
Traveling with Jesus – Why will you do it Together?
Mother Rosean Amaral Presider, and Dori Healy, Homilist

Welcome/Announcements *Lector David Cloyd*

Social Justice Reflection *Tom Moos, Chair*

Entrance Song Gracious God (V1; V2; R; V3; R)

Greeting Ad Lib

We gather in the name of Creator God, our brother Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

May the grace and peace from God our Creator, the love of Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Mother Rosean welcomes…

We pause to come fully into this space, body, mind, emotion, soul and spirit, and to recognize the presence of God in us and among us.

Let us remember our connection to God…

Penitential Rite

Gracious God,

Open our eyes to see your presence among us.

Let us see you in every face we encounter.

All: Let us see you in every face we encounter.

Brother Jesus,

Grant us the power and the courage

to come out of the darkness and into your light.

Let us walk in your light.

All: Let us walk in your light.

Holy Spirit, Enlighten the eyes of our souls and reveal us as children of the light.

All: Reveal us as children of the light.

God of glory and light, renew us by your nurture and blessing, and bring us to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

No Gloria

Opening Prayer

Let us pray together…

Loving God,

whose touch can heal the broken places of life, touch us today...

Heal us from fears that paralyze us;

All: Heal us, O God.

From illness that strangles us;

All: Heal us O God.

From the atrocities of war;

All: Heal us, O God.

From sorrows that weigh us down;

All: Heal us, O God.

From aimlessness that plagues our visions;

All: Heal us, O God, please heal us.

In Jesus' name,



All: Amen

(Adapted from Katherine Hawker, and posted on Liturgy Outside (http://liturgyoutside.net/)

And now let us listen to God's Word in Scripture and in the continuing story of God's people…

Liturgy Of The Word

First Reading: *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

For A Lenten Journey by Christine Valters Paintner**,** from **A Book Of Everyday Blessings.**

Holy One of the Desert and Wilderness,
you have called our hearts to follow you
into places that strip away
all that is not essential
and to rest in your abiding love.

Meet us on the dry, shifting sand
or the wild thicket where we have wandered out



to find ourselves and you.

Walk with us as we do the hard inner work

to stay present to you even amid

the difficult voices, the challenging thoughts,

the harsh judgments.

Celebrate with us those moments on our journey

when there is a clearing

moment when stillness

rises like a mountain,

moments when we know what it is to simply be.

Illuminate our vision to see all that we grasp

and cling to, all that burdens us,

all that makes us feel divided.

Let the dross {rubbish} burn in the holy fire,

until we see your radiance

shimmering at every turn,

in each face, in each encounter.

Help us to see how much in love

with the world you are,

how you beckon us to follow

Words Inspired by God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm to be sung. O Dios, Crea en mi.

Second Reading: *Lector David Cloyd*

A Reading from Ephesians 5: 8-14

There was a time when you were darkness, but now you are light in Christ. Live as children of the light.

Light produces every kind of goodness, justice and truth. Be correct in your judgment of what pleases our Savior. Take no part in deeds done in darkness, which bear no fruit; rather; expose them. It's shameful even to mention the things these people do in secret; but when such deeds are exposed and seen in the light of day, everything that becomes visible is light. That's why we read,



"Awake O sleeper, arise from the dead,

and Christ will give you Light"

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Gospel Acclamation: MOD (R; V7; R)

Gospel

Our Loving God is within you.

All: And also within you.

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel attributed to John (9:1-3, 5-17, 24-41)

All: 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 who was blind and a beggar.”

Then the people asked, “Then how were your eyes opened?”

“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 healed 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? After all, 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, “Exactly 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 in turn, “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 threw 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?" Jesus replied, "The one you see before you; the Chosen One is speaking with 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 Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: Praise to You, Jesus our Christ.

Homily: *Dori Healy*

NO CREED

Mother Rosean: Let us bring forth our prayers for all of Creation…

Prayers of the People: *Lector David Cloyd*

Our Response is: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

For the sacred dignity of every human life and the rejection of hatred and dehumanization of people, while nations wrestle with complex political and security concerns that those in charge might find an end to the conflict in Iran that follows Christ's call to be agents of reconciliation, truth and peace, we pray,

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

For help in finding and staying on the path that you want each of us to walk in Lent that we might follow you and be a light to others walking their own Easter paths towards you, we pray,

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

For our eyes to be opened to Christ's love around us so that we can see Him and find ways to help spread that love to others, we pray,

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.



The prayers from the sanctuary are… We pray.

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

The prayers from our members on Zoom … We Pray.

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

And for all of the people on our prayer list and the prayers we hold dear in our hearts.

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

Mother Rosean: Loving God, you know our needs before we speak them. May our prayers be in harmony with Your will and may our service to others be generous.

For Jesus' sake,

All: Amen

The Peace

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you my peace, my peace I give you." May the Peace of Christ be within you all.

All: And also within you.

Please turn toward the camera to offer a sign of peace to our siblings at home and then toward each other.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink here and in our homes, 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 able.

Let us sing together…

Offertory Song – Amazing Grace (V1; V2; R; V3; R)

Preparation of the Gifts (During Offertory Song)

Blessed are You, Loving God of all Creation, through Your goodness we have this bread to place on Your table. Work of earth and human hands. May it become our spiritual food.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are You, Loving God of all Creation, through Your goodness we have this wine to place on Your table. Work of earth and human hands. May it become our spiritual drink.



All: Blessed be God forever.

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Wash away my iniquity, cleanse me of my sin.

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray my siblings in Christ, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, our Mother and Father.

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

May the love of God live within you. **All: And also within you.**

Let us open up our hearts. **All: We open them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to our loving God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

With hearts full of gratitude and praise we raise our voices to you, God of unending love, for your kindness is everlasting.



Your mighty wind swept over the waters; into the night your voice called forth the light of day. Day after day you form, with a potter's care, a world in which all creation shows forth the wonder of your love for us. All the earth is ablaze with your glory! All that lives and breathes joins in a dance of life and hope! We, too, add our voices to fill every space with the sound of our joy in praising you, God, who are living now among us**.**

Holy, Holy, Holy MOD

You are holy, God of life and blessing, And from you flows the light of Christ which surrounds us, the love which enfolds us, the power which protects us, and the presence which watches over us.

In you we have discovered our dignity as your beloved daughters and sons. When we looked to you to save us, we beheld your undying Word of love made flesh, Jesus. A light shining in the darkness which cannot be overpowered! Jesus invited all to gather at one table and feast on the rich food and choice wine of God's unending providence.

May your Spirit overflow into our community once more, O God, that we who seek peace might behold the wondrous mystery we receive at your table: + the bread of unity, and the cup of love: the Body and Blood of Christ.



On the night before he died, Jesus and his friends reclined at table and recalled their passing over from the tears of slavery into the joyous freedom of new life. As they raised their voices in praise of you, they remembered the great night of deliverance.

Jesus took the 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 a final cup of the fruit of the vine. Again, he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and 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: MOD (Save us…)

Loving God, in fulfillment of Jesus' command, in memory of his selfless love which makes us one, we offer you this sacrifice of thanksgiving. Trusting in your

faithfulness, we pray that all peoples everywhere might come out of the shadows of darkness, of hatred, and of division to walk in the light. May this meal we share in Jesus' name bring us all to shine like the sun, so that this world might grow in justice and peace.

With joyful hearts we pray for Pablo and Kae, our bishops, our 301 Faith Partnership, and for all who sit at your table with us.

In your love, wipe away the tears from the faces of all who mourn.

We commend to your mercy all who have died in the hope of rising again, and all whose faith is known to you alone. (pause)

Gathered here, around this table, we stand with Mary, Mother of Jesus, our sister in faith, and the whole communion of saints. In that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, language, and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus, the Christ.

Together now we say…

All: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, self- emptying/ life-giving God, forever and ever.

The Great Amen MOD

The Prayer of Jesus

Let us turn to the camera and pray with our siblings at home in the words that Jesus gave us:

All: Amma/Abba God who are 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 and the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen

The Shared Table

Lamb of God MOD

This is the Living God, the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the One whose LOVE transforms the world. Happy are we who are called to this meal.

All: Jesus, I am ready to receive You and by Your invitation I am here.

Invitation to Communion

As we partake of the sustenance laid before us, let us affirm together:

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.

An open invitation awaits all of you at this table where Jesus Christ is the host. An invitation to be fed and to be loved without measure. Each one of you is a precious child of God. All are welcome, no exceptions.

Communion Hymn Take Up Our Cross (V1; R; V2; R) No Bridge

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray…

Loving God, we thank You for feeding us with the Body and Blood of Your Son Jesus Christ, our true Light. Just as You healed the man born blind, we ask that You open the eyes of our hearts. Enlighten us to see Your truth, that we may walk in Your light, witnessing to Your love and mercy in all we do. In Jesus's name,

All: Amen

Concluding Rite and Dismissal

May the love of God be with you.

All: And also with you.



Let us open our hearts and ask for God’s blessing…

Touched by Your grace, we take Your grace to the world. Healed by Your love, we take Your love to the world. Renewed by Your Spirit,

We go in the Spirit's power to be agents of Your healing. We ask for this blessing now, In the name of Amma/Abba God, Jesus our brother, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia.

All: Amen

Dismissal

Go forth, seeing the world anew through the eyes of faith. Live as children of light, bringing goodness, justice, and truth to all you meet.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song Send Out Your Spirit (R; V1; R; V3; R; V4; R)