



Mary of Magdala, ECC May 16, 2021

Para-Liturgy Celebrating the Ascension of the Christ

Participants may wish to prepare their home worship space with a lit candle and the food and drink to be remotely shared.

Announcements *Lector Jim Berry*

BLM/Social Justice reflection *Tom Moos, Chair Social Justice Ministry*

(Pause to hold this message in our hearts.)

Entrance Song *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Alleluia! Love is alive;

1. People of God, see the morning is new;
rise from your sleeping and run to the tomb.
Come and see! Come and see! He is alive!
A grave that is empty, a promise fulfilled.
God who was with us is here with us still.
He is here! He is here! He is alive!

Refrain

Alleluia! Love is alive;
conquered the grave and defeated the night.
Alleluia! Love is alive!

The Son has arisen for all.

Your people sing alleluia!

2. People of God, let your fear fall away.

Your chains have been broken; abandon your shame.

Lift your hearts! Lift your hearts! He is alive!

Here now is mercy embracing your soul;
here the fulfillment that once was foretold.

It is true! It is true! He is alive!

3. People of God now rejoicing in Christ,
carry your joy to the darkness of night.

Tell the world! Tell the world! He is alive!

Hear the good news of this glorious day,
every heart singing as heaven proclaims:

He is Lord! He is Lord! He is alive!

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reserved..

Greeting *Father Michael Nicosia*

In the name of our Father/Mother God, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: *with Kerrie:* **Amen**

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: *with Kerrie:* **And also with you.**

Penitential Rite *Father Michael Nicosia*

The Apostle Paul tells us to be humble, gentle, and patient, bearing with one another in love; and to be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

How do we live into that calling in this age of entrenched division, in Congress, across our nation, in the Holy Land and around the world?

This week I watched a documentary on the development of vaccinations, and marveled that, even at the height of the Cold War the United



States, Russia and every nations on earth worked as one to eradicate small pox.

The threats to our wellbeing are no less dire in our day, but we can't seem to work together to meet the challenges that we face.

As we begin this celebration of the Sacrament that unites us, we ask for the grace to do better.

Jesus our brother, you prayed that we may be one. For the ways we fail to cooperate with others, have mercy on us.

ALL with Kerrie: Have mercy on us.
Anointed One, you equip us for every good work. For the times we keep our blessings to ourselves,

have mercy on us. Have mercy on us. **ALL with Kerrie: Have mercy on us.**

Ascended One, you sit in glory, interceding on our behalf. For the times we are idle, impotently waiting for your return, have mercy on us. **ALL with Kerrie: Have mercy on us.**

May our self-emptying God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, ✠ and bring us to life everlasting.

ALL with Kerrie: Amen

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

In eternal hope, with the whole of creation we are bold to sing:

Gloria - *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Glory to God - Mass of the Joyful Heart

Refrain
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
(Amen.)

1. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great
glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

3. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Refrain

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Opening Prayer - *Father Michael Nicosia*

Eternal God, in the Ascension of your Son
you again united heaven and earth in the
Oneness that is You.

Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of Christ's peace.

And, through our witness, make the whole
world aware of the interconnectedness that is



your design and will, and bring us at last to the Oneness of your Triune glory.

ALL with Kerrie: **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: 1st Reading: Acts 1. 1-2, 3, 6-11 - Lector Jim Berry

In the first book, Theophilus, 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 sky.

For forty days, Jesus continued to appear to his followers, speaking about the Reign of God.

When the disciples were all together with Jesus, they asked, “Teacher, is this the time when you will restore the reign 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, all Judea, 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 up from you into the heavens, will come again in the same way as you have seen him depart.”

The Word of God

All: with Kerrie: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 47 – Lector Jim Berry

The response is: **Love rises up! ALL:** (with Jim) **Love rises up!**

Clap your hands, all peoples!
Acclaim the Creator with loud songs of joy!
Rejoice in the awesome beauty of creation!
The Beloved of our hearts is great, inviting all peoples to co-creation,
inviting nations to peace.
Love is our birthright, our heritage,
to be awakened in every soul shared with all.

All (with Jim): **Love rises up!**

Let love rise up with shouts of acclamation!
Join in the cosmic dance of celebration!
Sing praises to the Beloved! Sing Praises!

Love permeates the universe!

All (with Jim): **Love rises up!**

Love hovers over the nations, awaiting our awakening.
The Beloved reigns in the Cosmos where Earth is cradled.
May the leaders of all nations gather as one,
choosing justice, choosing to walk in peace,
singing songs of gratitude!

All (with Jim): **Love rises up!**

Second Reading – Ephesians 4. 1-13 Lector Matt Chavez

I, Paul, a prisoner for the sake of Jesus the Christ, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the calling you have received. Be humble, gentle, and

patient, bearing with one another in love. Be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one Body, one Spirit, just



as you were called to one Hope. There is one Christ, one faith, one baptism, and one God who Loves all. who is over all and through all and in all.

We are one, but we are not uniform: each of us has been given a special gift, a particular share in the abundance of the body of Christ. . .

This Christ gives a variety of gifts: to some, that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, shepherds; to some teachers. All these gifts knit God's holy people

together for the work of building up the Body of Christ.

This is our work until everyone exercises their unique spiritual gift in unity, until we awaken to the Love of God, until we all mature into full humanity with the very plenitude of the Cosmic Christ.

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God's people.

All: *(with Kerrie)* **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia – Mass of the Joyful Heart *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Refrain
Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Let your heart rejoice in the Lord.

Let your word proclaim his deeds.
Let your voice sing out to the world
that our God has come to save.

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Gospel Reading – Mark 16. 9-15, 19-20 *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

God is with you.
A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

Sisters and brothers,
When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala. She went out and told those who had been with Jesus and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they would not believe it.

Jesus later appeared in another form to two disciples as they were walking into the country. They, too, went back and reported it to the rest. They did not believe them either.

Yet later, Jesus appeared to the *Eleven* as they were at table. He rebuked them for their lack of

ALL: *with Kerrie* **And also with you.**
ALL: *with Kerrie* **Glory to you, O God.**

faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

Jesus said to the disciples, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

After he had spoken to them, Jesus, the Christ, was taken up into the cosmos, to be with God. Jesus' followers went forth and preached everywhere. God was with them, and through them, worked accompanying signs.

The Good News of Salvation of Jesus our Christ.

All: *with Kerrie* **Praise to you, Jesus the Christ**

CREED by Father Michael Nicosia, 2020



Homily “in the meantime” *Father Michael Nicosia*

Creed – Our Truth *join Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral while muted*

We believe in God, our Mother out-pouring, our Father uniting, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and yet to be revealed.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word eternally spoken by God, our brother and teacher, through whom all things were made and hold together.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For the sake of the truth he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; and on the third day rose from the dead.

He ascended into heaven yet remains active in our midst. He will come again in glory to unite

the living and the dead, and our communion with him will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son as the dynamic expression of their relationship and channel of their love. With the Father and the Son, She is worshiped and glorified.

We believe in the ways She unites us: through her prophetic challenge, through the Body of Christ, the Church, in our shared baptism, in our sacrifices on behalf of others, in our hope in the resurrection, and in the fulfillment of God’s promise in eternity. Amen.

Prayers of the People -

Father Michael Nicosia

How interconnected we are is revealed in how we intercede for the needs of the church and the world. Living into it, we pray

Lector Matt Chavez

The response is: Beloved, receive our prayers. **All: Beloved, receive our prayers**

For Mary of Magdala and the Rocky Mountain Regional ECC, that we may bloom into fullness as our bishop-elect Mother Kae Madden shepherds us and all people who are seeking a more verdant faith life, we pray, **Response: Beloved receive our prayers.**

For the Leaders of all countries that they may listen to the needs of their people and make decisions that will lead to less violence, better healthcare, jobs paying just and living wages, clean water and nutritious food for all who live in their country, we pray, **Response: Beloved receive our prayers.**

You are now invited to share your prayers so that we might pray in community with you. You can press the spacebar and voice your prayer, OR you can type your prayer into the chat box.

(Matt to read each prayer on “chat”) ... we pray **All: Beloved receive our prayers.**

And for those on our Prayer List and all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray.

All: Beloved receive our prayers

Father Michael Nicosia

God of Wonder, affirming signs happen whenever our lives proclaim the good news of your Son. Hear the



prayers of these disciples made One in Christ and empower us to be his witnesses in Fort Collins, in our Region, and to the ends of the earth. This we ask and can do in Jesus' name.

ALL with Kerrie: **Amen**

Sign of Peace

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Celebrating the power of mercy and love, may the peace of Christ be with you always.

All: with Kerrie: **And also with you.**

Let us all unmute and go to gallery view, that we might share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Meditation Song *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Above All

Refrain

1. Above all powers, above all kings,
above all nature and all created things;
above all wisdom
and all the ways of man,
you were here before the world began

2. Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,
above all wonders
the world has ever known;
above all wealth
and treasures of the earth,
there's no way

to measure what you're worth.

Refrain

Crucified, laid behind the stone,
you lived to die, rejected and alone.
Like a rose trampled on the ground,
you took the fall,
and thought of me above all.
(to Verse 2, Refrain).

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Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of our Tables

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink
from our cupboards,
we are reminded that our offerings of time,
talent and treasure
sustain the mission of God's Church.
Continue to give as you are called and able.

Offertory

Father Michael Nicosia

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
We set before you this humble food
which earth has given and human hands have
made.

In the sharing may we preserve the foundations
of our Oneness in you.

ALL: With Kerrie: **Blessed be God forever.**

Prayer over the Gifts - *Father Michael Nicosia*

Good God, accept the gifts and prayers of your people. Set us free from all that separates us from you, as we fulfill the ministry of reconciliation given to us by the Risen Christ. **Amen.**

God is with you.
Lift up your hearts.

All: with Kerrie **And also with you.**

All: with Kerrie **We lift them up to God.**



Let us give thanks to our loving God.

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

It is indeed right, and a good and joyful thing, to thank you, O God Ever-faithful and Abiding, through Jesus, your First-born from the dead. As Christ, he rose and appeared to those who had felt his touch.

Before their eyes You raised him once more to join you in glory, that he may raise us to be your children and welcomed into your Oneness.

But we stood there, paralyzed, looking up at the sky; lost without our Rabbi and friend, we wondered with the Psalmist: Has your love vanished forever? Has your promise come to an end?

... This is what causes my grief, that the Way of the Most High has changed.

Yet what has changed? Christ abides with us always; love endures; the promise is true. It is we who have yet to change, to do the work to which we are called.

If we feel lost, it's because we have yet to realize that all is fulfilled in the awareness of our Oneness with you and with one another.

If we are One, there is no obstacle to justice; if One, nothing can disturb our peace; if One, your Kindom comes, your Will is done, and as One we take our place in the heavenly chorus of angels and saints, joining the whole of Creation to sing of your glory:

Holy – (*join with Bill while muted*)

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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We commit ourselves to the community of faith in which this song resonates, calling upon You, most merciful God, to send your Holy Spirit upon us afresh and upon the offerings we have set before You in our homes.

Bless ✠ these gifts that they may become the incarnation of your abiding love. As our awareness of your Oneness grows, may we know that You are truly present through our sharing and that we are truly united in You.

Though now gathered in separate locations we remember what your Son did at table and in life, foreshadowing the self-gift that was his death.

Jesus took bread, gave You thanks and praise, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying:

**ALL: Take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body, which will be given up for you.**

When the supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again he gave You thanks and praise, gave the cup to the 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 our faith:

**ALL: Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Savior of the world.**

Loving God, we celebrate the memory of Christ, your Son, all that he did and continues to do to liberate your people and bring us true freedom.



While we ask you to remember all our sisters and brothers of many faiths and spiritual paths, who each bring their own insights and blessings to our world, remember, too, your Church, united across the miles.

Make us grow in love, together with all who have heard and follow the vision handed down to us from the Apostles. Continue to empower us as laypersons, deacons and priests for the special ministry given to the Body of Christ, praying especially for the local Church united in joy with our Bishop-elect Kae.

Remember, Lord, all those who have died... Completely aware of our Oneness with You, they are welcomed into the company of Mary, your Mother, our patron Mary of Magdala and all your prophets, apostles, martyrs, and saints who have gone before us and taught us to live into that Oneness even as we remain here with eyes lifted to the heavens.

Source and Ground of All-Being, through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever.

ALL with Kerrie: **Amen**

The Prayer of Jesus Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Let us pray in the words our Savior taught us:

ALL: *(together on mute)* **Abba/Amma in heaven, Holy be Your name. Your kin-dom come, Your will be done, on earth as 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.

ALL with Kerrie: **Amen**

The Shared Table - Father Michael Nicosia

ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to this supper.

ALL: Lord, you have made me worthy to receive You and by Your word I am healed!

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.

Sacred Music - *'You Alone' instrumental by Bill Smith*

Prayer after the Meal Father Michael Nicosia

Let us pray...



Holy God, Ground of our Unity,
you have given us who still live on earth
a share in the heavenly banquet of eternal life.

Direct our minds and hearts more and more
to Christ who lives and works with you
through us now and always.

ALL: *with Kerrie* **Amen**

Concluding Rite

Father Michael Nicosia

The Lord is with you.

ALL with Kerrie: And also with you.

Solemn Blessing

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Father Michael Nicosia

On this solemn feast, may you be blessed in
knowing that God's unique Son ascended into
heaven to prepare a place for you.

When he returns to judge the living and the dead,
may your conscience and your attempts to live
out your call bring you peace.

Though the Cosmic Christ abides in the glory of
the Godhead, may you grow in the awareness of
his presence with you to the end of time,
according to his promise.

May almighty God bless you: the Source of All-
Being, the Eternal Word ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

ALL with Kerrie: Amen

Dismissal *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

Our celebration is ended, let us go in peace to love and serve God and one another

ALL with Kerrie: Thanks be to God, Alleluia

Closing Song - *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Go Make a Difference

Refrain

Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

1. We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God in you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

2. We are the hands of Christ

reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

3. So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

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