


Mary of Magdala, ECC– August 18, 2024

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Together Wherever We Are

Father Michael Nicosia presiding

Welcome and Announcements

Lector Art Bavoso

Social Justice Reflection *Linda Joyce, Eco- Social Justice Committee*

Entrance Song **Come to Our God (V1; R; V3; R)**

Greeting

Let us enter more deeply into the liturgy that empowers us,
in the name of the Creator, ✠ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

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

All: And also with you.

Penitential Rite

“Come to our God;
come to the table of lasting life.
Bring your burdens;
there’s no price, just come to our God.”

God of our sustenance,
we know that you give us the Bread of Life
that we might be the Bread of Life for others.



Do we really? Knead us until we really know.

All: Knead us until we really know.

God of open invitation,
we know that you welcome us to your banquet.

Do we really? Knead us until we really know.

All: Knead us until we really know.

God of boundless love,
we know you extend the invitation to all.
Do we really? Knead us until we really know.

All: Knead us until we really know.

May Almighty God have compassion on us,
forgive us our sins, ✠ and bring us to life everlasting. **All: Amen.**


Let us celebrate God's glory with our voices as together we sing:

Gloria *Mass of the Desert*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and wise,
from you comes the living bread, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son. As his body at
work in the world, use us to nourish the hungry with the Word of your compassion



incarnate,

and use us as your Bread of life.

This we ask you through him, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives in our midst, now and always. *Amen.*

First Reading

Lector Art Bavoso

A Reading from the Wisdom of Proverbs. (9:1-6)

Wisdom has built Her house.

She has hewn Her seven pillars.

She has dressed Her meat and mixed Her wine.

Yes, She has spread her table.

She has sent out the women who serve Her
to invite all in.

Woman Wisdom herself cries out
from the heights above the town:

“You who need direction, turn in here.”

To those who lack understanding, She calls:

“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed!

Lay aside ignorance, and live;
follow the way of insight.”

The Word of a Judean Wisdom writer.

All: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm Psalm 34:9; 10-11; 12-13. *Lector Art Bavoso*

Our Response is: **Taste and see that God is good.***

Taste and see that God is good!

Blessed are those who take shelter in God's house,
who receive hospitality from the Holy One.

Response: Taste and see that God is good.

Show your humility, holy ones of God,
for those who honor God want for nothing.
Even the rich will grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek God lack no good thing.

Response: Taste and see that God is good.

Come, children, and listen to me.

I will teach you the love of God. Do you love life?

Come, Beloved!

Relish the chance to delight in your days!

Response: Taste and see that God is good.

Second Reading

Lector Kerrie Anderson

A Reading from *Lumen Christi . . . Holy Wisdom: Journey to Awakening* by Nan C. Merrill.

Awaken and attune to Wisdom's Voice
ever with you in the heart-womb;
wise are those who hear,
who surrender to Her Call.

A question arises: What can I do
to render back to Love
a gratitude beyond words?

An answer is heard: Become the Bread of Life,
kneaded thoroughly until pliant
in the Hands of Love:

Nourishment for hungry souls waiting
to be filled, so that they, too,
become the bread of Life for others.

Listen to the sounds of silence:
the language of the heart.

And may you ever be blessed by Beauty:
the song of Songs within your heart.

The gateway to heaven is wherever you are.
Lumen Christi. . . Holy Wisdom.



Words inspired by God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mass of the Desert (Inclusive verse 1)

Gospel (Jn 6:24-32, 49-50, 33-35, 41-42, 51-58)

The Love of our God is with you. **All: And also with you.**

A Proclamation of the Gospel attributed to John. **All: Glory to you O God.**

The morning after Jesus fed 5,000 families with 5 loaves and 2 fish,
the crowds realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples
were on their side of the lake.

So, they got into boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

When the crowds found him on the opposite shore of the lake, they asked, “Rabbi,
when did you get here?”

Jesus answered, “In truth, you are looking for me,
not because you saw the signs I performed,
but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

Don't work for food that spoils, but for food that endures,
which the Human One will give you.

For upon that one, God has placed a seal of approval.”

Then they asked Jesus, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this:
to believe in the one God has sent.”



They asked him, "What sign, then, will you give
that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

Our ancestors ate manna in the desert.

It is written, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Jesus said to them, "In truth, I tell you,
it isn't Moses who gave your ancestors bread from heaven.

It's our Loving God who gives you the true bread from heaven.

Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died.

This is bread that comes down from heaven
so that one may eat it and not die.

The bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world."

"Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never go hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Many sought to denounce Jesus after he said,
"I am the bread that came down from heaven."

They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph,
whose father and mother we know?"

How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

Jesus continued, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."



Many who were gathered around continued to argue
and debate amongst themselves,

“How can this one give his own flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “In truth, I tell you,
unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Human One,
you have no life in you.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have life everlasting,
and I will raise them up on the last day.

For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

Those who eat my body and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

Just as the living God sent me and I live because of God,
so whoever eats of me will live because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven,
not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died.

The one who eats this bread will live forever.

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Homily:

“giving of ourselves –the banquet complete”

Creed

Together, let us share in Our Truth.



Our Truth (*Fr. Michael J. Nicosia* © 2020, 2024)

**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, our brother and teacher,
the Word eternally spoken by God
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 with the Father and the Son models equality in diversity
and the blessings that proceed from self-giving 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

Acknowledging our holy communion with the church and the world,
let us listen attentively to the needs now voiced,
that we might be the Bread of Life for each other.

Lector Kerrie Anderson

Our Response is: **Loving God, teach us to be the Bread of Life.**

For all churches and faith traditions, especially the 301 Faith Partners, that we may offer the bread that feeds bodies, minds, and souls to all who seek a deeper relationship with God, we pray, **Response: Loving God, teach us to be the Bread of Life.**

For all students, teachers, coaches, and parents as the new school year begins, that they may have open minds and hearts to receive lessons from each other, we pray, **Response: Loving God, teach us to be the Bread of Life.**

For all the children and youth in the world that don't have access to education that they may find a way to grow mentally, emotionally and spiritually, we pray, **Response: Loving God, teach us to be the Bread of Life.**

These are the prayers from the sanctuary....

we pray, **Response: Loving God, teach us to be the Bread of Life.**



Are there prayers from our zoom attendees?

...we pray, **Response: Loving God, teach us to be the Bread of Life.**

And for all the people on our prayer lists, and the prayers we hold in our hearts, we pray, **Response: Loving God, teach us to be the Bread of Life.**

Good and gracious God, a question arises:

**What can we do to render back to Love
a gratitude beyond words?**

**An answer is heard: Become the Bread of Life,
kneaded thoroughly until pliant in the Hands of Love.
Hear our prayers and continue to knead us and use us
until all the world is fed.**

We also pray together...



Our Prayer for Synod

**God on High, the mountains are radiant with your glory.
Through your Christ the dawn from on high
has broken upon us and lights our way.**

**✠ Bless our preparations for our Holy Synod,
that we may be better bearers of the fire**



that gives light to the world.

**This we ask and can do, empowered by your Spirit,
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

The Peace

“May you ever be blessed by Beauty:

the song of Songs within your heart.

The gateway to heaven is wherever you are.”

May the peace of Christ be with you always. **All: And also with you.**

Please turn toward the camera first and offer a sign of Christ's peace, then extend that peace to those around you.

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 called and able.

You may be seated if you wish. Let us sing together:

Offertory Song “Do This In Memory of Me” (V1; R; V2; R; B; R)

Preparation of the Gifts *(during offertory song)*



Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life. *Blessed is 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.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become our spiritual drink. *Blessed is God forever.*

The Washing of Hands

O God, we ask you to receive us and to be pleased with
the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.

God, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

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

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

Prayer over the Gifts

God of the banquet over-flowing,
we come with gifts before you, trusting in your loving-kindness.



May what we do in honor of you become a blessing for all peoples through Christ, the Bread of Life. **All: Amen.**

Preface for Corpus Christi

(adapted 2024 by Michael J. Nicosia © 2019)

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

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

Most High and glorious God,

we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus our Christ.

The embodiment of love, he is the Bread of Life come down from heaven
who established this unending memorial.

Offering himself for the liberation of all,
he gave of himself completely, even unto death,
to incarnate your saving power until the end of time.

In the person of your Son
and through his Body, the Church gathered and at work,
your compassion breaks into the world.

In his name our lives, too, are offered in self-less service,
guided by his example and empowered by your Spirit.



With grateful hearts we join with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
to sing our unending hymn of praise.

Holy -sung Mass of the Desert

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 and upon the offerings we have set before You
here and in our homes.

Bless ✠ these gifts that they may become the Body and Blood of Christ, shared
within Christ's Body gathered.

We remember what your Son did at table and in life,
both expressions of a love more inclusive
than our human weakness can even imagine,
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.

Memorial Acclamation *Mass of the Desert* **Save us Savior**

Loving God, we celebrate the memory of Christ, your Son,
all that he did and continues to do
to all peoples into the fullness of your Kindom.

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 revelation
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 its local incarnation,



in union with bishop Kym, bishop-elect Meghan,
and our own bishop Kae.

Remember, O God, all those who have died....

Welcome them into your glorious presence
with Mary, our Mother, our patrons Mary of Magdala and St. Paul,
and all who have gone before us touched by Triune Love
as they enjoy the fullness of the Communion that is our destiny.

**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.**

Amen Mass of the Desert

The Prayer of Jesus

Let us turn again to the camera
so that we can pray together in the words our Savior gave us:

**All: Abba/Amma, 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, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Lamb of God Mass of the Desert



The Shared Table

This Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood is open to all,
for the invitation is as inclusive as God's grace.

Blessed are we who are called to this meal.

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

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.**

Communion Song Remembrance (V1; R; V2; R)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Good God, we thank you for welcoming us to the banquet of your Son.

May our share in this Holy Communion
be known in our everyday lives.

This we ask in Jesus' name. **All: Amen.**

Prayer for Jim Berry

Let us now join together in our prayer for Jim...

In the name of God, we bless you, Jim.

May you receive the gifts of wisdom and insight,



compassion and understanding,

growth and discernment throughout this ordination process.

We bless you, Jim, as you bless us.

Under the loving eyes of the Sacred Three in One we pray. Amen.

Concluding Rite and Dismissal

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

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

Our celebration continues.

Let us go in peace to love and serve our God
and be the Bread of Life for a hungry world.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song Malo Malo Thanks Be To God (R; V1; R; V2; R)