



Mary of Magdala, ECC – May 11, 2025

Celebrating the 4th Sunday of Easter and Mother's Day—Together Wherever We Are

Mother Rosean Amaral Presiding

Welcome and Announcements: Lynne Barnes, Lector

Entrance Song: This is The Day (R; V2; R; V3; R)

Greeting

Let us continue as one expression of God's people in the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

All: Amen

May the love of God, the peace of our brother Jesus, and the communion and friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Welcome

Thank you all for worshipping with us, both virtually and in the sanctuary. We are blessed by your presence among us.

Today is a special time to thank God for mothers and for all those who are called to mother to a broken world.

It is also a time to celebrate our Mother Church where we are all united as family with God as our loving parent.

And May is the Month of Mary, Mother of God and our spiritual mother who we celebrate also.

Penitential Rite

Let us seek the embrace of God's love, forgiveness, and peace...

For the mothering of mothers, and the mothering of fathers,

for the mothering of all others:

Mother God, we thank you for your love.

All: Mother God, we thank you for your love.



For those who act as midwife to our hopes,
for those who nurse us through our pain,
for those who nurture, strengthen and guide us:
Mother God, we thank you for your mercy.

All: Mother God, we thank you for your mercy.

For those who gently push us from the nest,
for those who welcome us home,
for those who become our family,
for the motherhood of the Church:
Mother God, we thank you for your grace.

All: Mother God, we thank you for your grace.

(adapted from a collection of **Mothers Sunday Prayers produced by Mother's Union.**

<http://www.themothersunion.org/>)

Loving God, you know our desire to serve you. Come to our aid that we might be a mothering presence to your children who are in need of your love, forgiveness and peace. Through Jesus, the Risen Christ.

All: Amen

And now let us sing our praises to God:

Gloria: Glory To God (Mass of St Mary Magdalene)

Opening Prayer

Let us Pray...

Nurturing God, we rejoice with thanks for all those who have mothered us in our lives. In a world that is broken and in need of your motherly love, please use us to help others, as you do to us, in providing comfort, nurture, protection and support.

We ask that you grow us to be caring people to those who need us, so that we might celebrate your goodness together even through our own brokenness.

In all your Holy Names we pray.

All: Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD



You may be seated as we listen to the Word of God in our midst...

First Reading: Lynne Barnes, Lector

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 12:1-3, 5-7, 9-16

Herod, who ruled over the Judeans, launched an attack against certain members who followed the way of Jesus. Herod had James, the brother of John, beheaded by sword. When Herod saw that this pleased the crowds, he went on to arrest Peter as well. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. So, Peter was kept in prison, but the church, the followers of Jesus, prayed fervently to God for him.

On the night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers while guards were keeping watch at the main entrance to the prison. Suddenly a messenger of God appeared, and a light shone in the cell. This angel tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying,

“Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. Peter followed the angel out of the prison cell, but did not realize that what was happening was real. He thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the two guards, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened of its own accord, and they went through it. Outside, they made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him. When Peter recovered his senses, aware now that he was not dreaming, he thought, “Now I’m sure God sent the angel and saved me from the hand of Herod and from all that was expected to happen to me.”

At this realization, Peter went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, who was also called Mark. Many had gathered in prayer at her house. When Peter knocked at the outer gate, a woman named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was at the gate. They said to her, “You are out of your mind.” But she insisted it was so. They said, “It’s his angel.” Meanwhile Peter continued knocking. When they opened the gate and saw him, they were amazed.

The Word of an Early Church Historian.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm We are God’s People (R; R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)

The Second Reading Deb Klein, Lector

“Beatitudes for Women,” Courtesy of Newark New Jersey Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

Blessed is she who suffers with the very young,



The very old, and the very lonely,
For she has compassion.

Blessed is she who greets the
World with you,
Has laughter, and anticipation,
For she has courage.

Blessed is she who speaks gently,
Lives humbly,
And chooses to give freely,
For she has dignity.

Blessed is she who listens and hears,
And extends her hands as a friend,
For she has understanding.

Blessed is she who gives simply,
Loves deeply,
And walks joyfully in life,
For she has sincerity.

Blessed is she who lives intensely
And sings life's alleluias,
For she has awareness.

Blessed is she who has
Compassion and courage,
Freedom and dignity,
Understanding, sincerity, and Awareness,
For she is a woman, a gift, a blessing.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (Mass of St MM V3)

Gospel

May the Love of the Risen Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**



A proclamation of **the Gospel attributed to John. 13:33a, 34 + 21:15-19**

All: Glory to You, O God.

Dear Ones, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: Love (agape) one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another...

After the disciples had breakfast with the resurrected Jesus on the shore where they had been fishing, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, do you love (agape) me more than the others?"

"Yes, you know that I love (philo) you."

Jesus said to him, "Tend my lambs."

Jesus then asked a second time, "Simon, do you love (agape) me?"

Yes, you know that I love (philo) you. Jesus said to him, "Shepherd my sheep."

Then Jesus asked him a third time: "Simon, do you love (philo) me?"

Peter was upset that Jesus asked a third time, "Do you love (philo) me?" So he said to Jesus, "You know all things. You know that I love (philo) you."

Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

"I tell you the truth. When you were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished; but when you get old, you'll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me."

The

Good News of Resurrection Hope.

All: Praise to You, Jesus our Christ.

Homily: Mother Rosean Amaral

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Prayers of the People

Mother Rosean: With confidence in the immensity of God's mercy, let us bring forth our prayers.

Deb Klein, Lector

The response is, Risen Christ, we live in your love. **All: Risen Christ, we live in your love.**



For Indigenous mothers and all those who mother the air, land, waters, flora, fauna, microbes of our life giving, home planet, Mother Earth, we pray.

All: Risen Christ, we live in your love.

We pause to remember with gratitude all those who have truly mothered us throughout our lives—daughters, mothers, sisters, aunts, nieces, mentors—that they may be blessed knowing God’s Love encircles them and gives them strength for the good days and not so good days. For any for whom this has been a hard day, for any who are suffering as a result of broken relationships, we pray,

All: Risen Christ, we live in your love.

We give thanks for the gift of mothering and nurturing, deep within us, and pray for the grace to let its flame burn bright, we pray. **All: Risen Christ, we live in your love.**

I will now read the prayers from those in the sanctuary. . . we pray. . .

All: Risen Christ, we live in your love.

Are there prayers from our zoom attendees....we pray. . .

All: Risen Christ, we live in your love.

And for all the people on our prayer list and those we hold in our hearts, we pray. **All: Risen Christ, we live in your love.**

Mother Rosean: Merciful God, knowing you have heard our prayers and confident in your love, we abide in your mercy. In Jesus’ name we pray. **All: Amen**

The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.

We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Let us offer each another a sign of Christ’s peace,
Both virtually and in the sanctuary.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts



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.

Offertory Song: The Lord is My Shepherd (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)

(During Offertory Song)

Blessed are you, loving God of all Creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, work of earth and toil of human hands. May this 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 offer, work of earth and toil of human hands. May this become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my sisters and brothers, 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. Amen

Eucharistic Prayer

May the risen Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Open your hearts.

All: We open them to God.

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

Blessed are you, Creator God, our light and our salvation. To You be glory and praise forever. From the beginning You have created all things, and all Your works echo the silent music of Your praise. In the fullness of time, You made us in Your image, and You gave us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing Your praise:

Holy: (Mass of St MM)

How wonderful the work of your hands, O God. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled, your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all



our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for all, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and these gifts that they may become the +Body and Blood of our brother, Jesus, the Christ.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he 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.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, 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: (Mass of St MM)

Loving God, we remember Jesus' dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

As we eat and drink these holy offerings in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, God, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. We pray for Paul and Kae, our Bishops, and for all who shepherd your holy people. We pray also for the manifestation of your love in our 301 Partnership with our Lutheran and Episcopal siblings in Christ.

Bring us with Mary, the Mother of God, Sarah, the Mother of Isaac, Elizabeth, the Mother of John the Baptist, Hannah, the Mother of Samuel, and all the saints, to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us through Jesus Christ, our Brother.

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.



AMEN: (Mass of St MM)

The Prayer of Jesus

Let us turn to the camera and pray with the words that Jesus taught 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: (Mass of St MM)

This is the Living God, the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the one who transforms the world. Happy are we who are called to this supper.

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 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.

(gluten free hosts in center. Wine and grape juice available)

Communion Song: Hail Mary Gentle Woman (by Carey Landry)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray...

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life.

Help us, who have tasted your goodness, to grow in grace within the household of faith, through Jesus Christ our brother.

All: Amen



Blessings for Dori Healy and Jim Berry:

All: Gracious and Loving God, we raise our hands, hearts, and voices to bless Dori and Jim as they continue the journey of discernment toward doing service ministry through ordination. Enliven them with clarity of vision and insight, embrace them with grace and compassion, guide them to truth and willingness to accept what unfolds for them. May they each receive the flow of grace from our hands to their hearts and souls. May it be so.

Concluding Rite and Dismissal

Let us open our hearts as we ask for God's blessing.

May our Mothering God be with you.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us;

May God, who became incarnate through Mary, an earthly mother, bless us;

May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us;

May God, who guides our Mother Church, bless us.

And may you be blessed in the name of our God of all blessings, our compassionate brother Jesus, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Let us go from here rejoicing that God loves us and welcomes us with open arms. And let us Mother to our broken world so that others may also rejoice.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Closing Song: Hallelujah Is Our Song (V1; V2; R; V3; R)

