



Mary of Magdala, ECC February 21, 2021 Celebrating the 1st Sunday in Lent

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

Announcements *Lector Art Bavoso*

Black Lives Matter *Tom Moos, co-chair Social Justice Ministry*
Pause to hold this message in our hearts.

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

40 Days

1. Forty days to wander,
forty days to die to self.
Forty days to grow stronger
as faith breaks open the gates of hell.
The jubilee is over, but grace is far from gone
in the hearts of the faithful,
broken on the wheels of love.

Refrain

'Cause in the desert of temptation
lies the storm of true conversion,
where springs of living water
drown and refresh you.
And as the Jordan pours out change,
your true self is all that remains,

where springs of living water
bind and break you,
bind and break you.

2. Forty days to remember
the Paschal Sacrifice.
Forty days to discover
his passion calls us to new life.
The jubilee is over,
but mercy's far from gone
in the arms of the father
as the wayward child comes home.

Refrain

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Greeting *Father Michael Nicosia*

Let us enter more consciously into our Lenten
journey in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL with Kerrie: Amen.

May grace and peace be with you in abundance
through the knowledge of God and of Christ's
good news.

ALL with Kerrie: And also with you.

Penitential Rite - *Father Michael Nicosia*

Let us surrender ourselves to God, rest in the arms of mercy, and ask for the grace of renewal ...

Confession - Together we confess:

ALL: (all together on mute) **God of all mercy and
compassion, we confess that we have sinned,
falling short of your divine will.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,**



the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. AMEN

Opening Prayer

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

Let us pray

Father Michael Nicosia

Lord Jesus Christ,
you prayed and fasted forty days in the wilderness and resisted temptation.
We ask you: Be with us when we are weak, and send us your Spirit

that we may know and overcome what separate us from you, who with our Creator in the unity of the Holy Spirit loves us every day and always..

ALL with Kerrie: AMEN

And now let us listen to the Word of God in our midst...

Liturgy of the Word *Lector Art Bavoso*

1st Reading Genesis 7. 11-18, 8. 6-16

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, all the underground springs of the earth erupted and all the windows of the heavens were thrown open. Rain poured on the earth for forty days and forty nights.

On the day the rain began, Noah, his wife, their sons and their wives entered the ark. With them came everything and anything that had the breath of life in it, creatures of all genders. Then God shut the door behind them.

The flood continued for forty days. The waters rose and bore the ark up, high over the ground. The flood deepened on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. . .

After 40 days, Noah opened a window he had made in the ark, and sent out a dove. . . When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water was receding from the earth. . . After 7 days, he sent out the dove again, but

this time it did not return. By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, Noah opened the hatch of the ark and saw dry ground.

Noah disembarked with his wife, their sons and daughters-in-law. Then all the animals, both crawling and winged creatures, every creature on the face of the earth, left the ship family by family.

And God said, "I am making My covenant with all of you that, never again, will everything living be destroyed by floodwaters. No. Never again will a flood destroy the earth.

"I am setting My bow in the clouds, a sign of the covenant between Me and Earth. When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the eternal covenant between Myself, your God, and every living thing, every last living creature on earth."



Words Inspired by God.

ALL with Kerrie: Thanks be to God

Psalm - Psalm Chant for Lent:

O Dios, Crea en Mi un Corazon/Create in me a Pure Heart, O God *sung by Bill Smith and Lynne Barnes*

2nd Reading: 1Peter 3. 18-22 *Lector Jim Berry*

Sisters and Brothers,
This is what Jesus the Christ experienced: he suffered because of the mistakes and evil acts of others. He clung to justice in the face of injustice for the sake of the unjust. In this faithful endurance, God was revealed to us. Jesus was put to death in the flesh, then transformed alive in the Spirit. In the Spirit, the risen Christ visited those who were lost in the Flood in the days of Noah and incorporated them into the family of God. All those who did not heed God’s call when the ark was being built were gathered again in the basin of God’s love.

In the Flood, only a few were spared—eight in all. They were saved through water. In the same way, the waters of baptism flood us with new life. Baptism is not a literal cleansing of the body, but a spiritual renewal and a rebirth of conscience through the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The Christ has gone into the Cosmos and is with God. Among all angels, powers, and authorities, this Cosmic Christ is the definitive word.

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God’s people.
ALL with Kerrie: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

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

Refrain
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.

One does not live on bread alone,

but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Refrain

*Mass of the Desert
Tom Booth*

Gospel Reading - Mark 1. 12-15 - *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

God is with you.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John. **All with Kerrie: And also with you.**
All with Kerrie: Glory to you, O God.

Immediately after Jesus’ baptism, the Spirit drove him into the desert. Jesus remained in the desert for 40 days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of

fulfillment. The kin-dom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the good news.”

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

ALL with Kerrie: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ



Homily *Father Michael Nicosia*
Lent, God's Re-set Button

Our Lenten Creed *(please join in with Fr Michael Nicosia while muted)*
Creed from Inclusive Worship Aids by Bridget Mary Meehan

ALL: I believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, child of God, born of Mary, human like us.

I believe Jesus came to teach us God's love, to heal our minds, our bodies, our spirit, to bring hope and a new vision, to show us how to live in the fullness of grace.

I believe that Jesus threatened the establishment. Jesus called for God's people to focus on the kin-dom within. I believe that because of the message that Jesus proclaimed, Jesus was condemned to die.

Jesus was put to death through crucifixion, buried in a borrowed tomb.

I believe that the women, faithful to Jesus, went to the tomb to anoint his body. I believe that the body of Jesus was gone, and Jesus overcame death through the resurrection.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, eternally living in our hearts, present in our world, in our universe. I believe the holy Catholic Church is the people gathered in worship and song. I believe that all God's children will one day be with God experiencing life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the People

Father Michael Nicosia

As we focus on our interconnectedness with God and with one another, let us affirm our commitment to right relationship by interceding for the needs of the Church and the world.

Lector Jim Berry

Our response is: Compassionate God, hear the prayers of our hearts **ALL with Kerrie: Compassionate God, hear the prayers of our hearts**

For the leaders of all countries that they may ensure vaccine is made available to the least among us as well as the well to do, we pray,
Response: Compassionate God, hear the prayers of our hearts.

For people in need of shelter, food, warmth, education, or health care that those who serve them may find the resources to continue working to aid them in ways that honor them, we pray,
Response: Compassionate God, hear the prayers of our hearts

I now 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.

(Lector to read each prayer on "chat")we pray **Response: Compassionate God, hear the prayers of our hearts.**

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



Father Michael Nicosia

Creator God, you poured out your very Self in the act of Creation, longing to share the love that flowed within your Triune Being. Honor the prayers of your people, and keep us ever mindful of the good news affirmed through your Son, Jesus our brother, in whose name we rejoice and pray.

All with Kerrie: Amen

Sign of Peace

Father Michael Nicosia

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

ALL with Kerrie: And also with you.

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

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

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

Come to the Water

1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

2. And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

3. And let all who toil, let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord: all who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

4. And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord: bring the children without might. Easy the load and light: come to the Lord. Come to the Lord. Come to the Lord. Come to the Lord.

I will run to you. I will run to you. I will run to you, my Lord.

I will run to you. I will run to you. I will run to you, my Lord.

Text: Isaiah 55:1, 2; Matthew 11:28-30.
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Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of our Tables

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

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, Lord, God of all creation.
We set before you this humble food which earth



has given and human hands have made.
In the sharing we affirm that all is holy when
united to you.

All with Kerrie: Blessed be God forever.

Prayer Over the Gifts *Father Michael Nicosia*

We thank you, O God, for all that you have
entrusted to us. Bless these gifts and direct how
we can use them in service of all our siblings in

your good Creation, in the power of your love
through Christ, our example.

ALL with Kerrie: **Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer *Father Michael Nicosia*

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

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

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

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

We thank you, [God of the unending Covenant,]
for in these forty days of [renewal] you call us
anew to follow your Son, that with him we might
resist evil and fulfil his commandment of love.
You strengthen our trust in your closeness,
you set us free from the powers of everyday life,
you open our hand for the needs of the poor.
In this way you lead us with pure hearts to the joy
of Easter and prepare us to meet your risen Son,
[Jesus Christ, our Kin.]

Look with kindness on your people gathered here
before you: send forth the power of your Spirit
so that these gifts may become for us the body
and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Whenever we are lost and cannot find our way to
you, you love us more than ever.

Through [Christ] we praise your mercy and join
the throngs of angels and [the whole of Creation]
in singing the praise of your glory:

In this meal we celebrate how Jesus, your Son,
innocent and filled only with your passion for right
relationship and peace, offered his life for the life
of the world.

Holy

ALL: *(Join in with Bill Smith while on mute)*

Holy, Holy, Holy

**Lord, God of hosts, heaven and earth are
filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is He who come in the name of the

Lord, Hosanna in the highest!

ALL

Yet before he stretched out his arms between
heaven and earth in the everlasting sign of your
covenant, he desired to celebrate the Paschal
feast in the company of his disciples.

While they were at supper, he took bread and
gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to
his disciples, and said:

ALL: *(on mute)* **Take this, all of you, and eat it.**

This is my body, which will be given up for you.

Loving and forgiving God, from the beginning of
time you have always blessed, challenged and
guided humanity so that we may be holy as you
are holy.

At the end of the meal, knowing that he would
show us the path to reconciliation in the blood of
the cross, he took the cup filled with wine. Again



he gave you thanks and praise, handed the cup to his disciples, and said:

ALL: (on mute) 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

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: (on mute) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Father Michael Nicosia

We do this in memory of Jesus Christ our Passover and our lasting peace.

We celebrate his death and resurrection and look for the coming of that day when he will return to give us the fullness of joy. Therefore we offer you, God ever faithful and true, the sacrifice which restores us to your friendship.

Father ever faithful, Mother ever-nurturing, look with love on those you have called to share in the one sacrifice of Christ. By the power of your Holy Spirit make them one body, healed of all division.

Keep us all in communion of mind and heart with Francis, the Bishop of Rome, Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Bernd, Archbishop of Utrecht, and all Bishops, especially our own presiding bishop, Francis

Remember all people who worship in the heritage handed down to us from the Apostles, including our Protestant brothers and sisters and their

leaders, who share with us the saving message of the Gospel.

Remember the Jewish and Muslim peoples who have received with us the spiritual heritage of faith of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar.

Remember, too those of the Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths and those of the Native religions as well, and all who seek truth and peace.

Remember all your children, O God. May your grace pierce the veils that separate us, may the inspiration of your Spirit make us one on the path of wisdom, and may the brilliant light of Christ lead us to discover your love in every human heart.

Help us to work together in your kin-dom of justice and peace, until at last we stand in your presence to share the life of the saints, in the company of the Virgin Mary, our patron Mary of Magdala and all the apostles and saints, together with _____ (and all) our departed siblings whom we commend to your mercy.

Then, freed from every shadow of death, we shall take our place in the new creation and give you thanks through Christ, in whom our holiness is founded.

ALL: (Together on mute) Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father/Mother, for ever and ever. Amen

The Prayer of Jesus

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:



(All to Join in on mute)

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom 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 be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kin-dom and the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

The Shared Table - *Father Michael Nicosia*

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.

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

ALL: *(together on mute)*

**In this we are a Eucharistic People,
the Body of Christ incarnate,
the Blood of Christ poured out for the life of the world**

Please spend a moment now, receiving God's grace as you eat and drink what is on your table

Sacred Music *Rosanna Bateman*

Prayer after the Meal

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Let us pray...

Father Michael Nicosia

Source and Ground of all being, in this Communion you refine the focus of our faith and hope, and deepen our love. Through it bring us to a better knowledge of who are and what we are

called to be, guided by Jesus Christ, your Son, to your glory now and forever.

ALL with Kerrie: Amen

Blessing *Father Michael Nicosia*

The Holy One is with you. **All with Kerrie: And also with you.**
Bowing our heads, let us ask for God's blessing

May the God of Love,
passionate and strong,
tender and dear,
watch over you
and hold you all the days of your life.

In the name of Amma/Abba God, Jesus our Brother, and Sophia, Holy Spirit.

We have been given an example of selfless love in the sufferings of Christ Jesus.



Through your service of God and neighbor
may you receive God's countless blessings.

ALL with Kerrie: AMEN.

Christ is the Word that re-sets our devotion and
direction,
and our Communion with Christ renews Creation.
May the good news of your place in the Kindom
be forever before your hearts and minds.

ALL with Kerrie: AMEN.

You believe that by his dying Christ destroyed
death and any perception of our separation from
God. May Christ give you everlasting life.

ALL with Kerrie: AMEN.

May almighty God bless you, in the name of the
Parent of All, and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

ALL with Kerrie: Amen

Dismissal *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

The mass is ended, let us go in peace
to love and serve the Lord and one another. **ALL with Kerrie: Thanks be to God**

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

Into the Desert

1. Come, beloved, and rest your mind;
leave the things of this world behind.
Here I will be your daily bread,
all that you need.

Refrain
Into the desert I will lead;
here in the silence my word will speak.

And you will find the peace you seek
here in the desert.

2. Stay, beloved, and lose your fear;
there is healing and mercy here.
Here I will be a living stream,
all that you need.