Mary of Magdala, ECC – March 8, 2026
Celebrating the Third Sunday of Lent - How will you travel with Jesus?
Mother Alice Bradley, Presider and Homilist

Welcome/Announcements *Lynne Barnes, Lector*

Social Justice Reflection *Tom Moos, Chair*

Entrance Song Come to the River (R; V1; R; V2; R' V3' R)

GATHERING RITE

Greeting: Mother Alice Bradley

Good Afternoon,
I'm Mother Alice Bradley, the Associate Pastor of the Church of the Beloved in Northglenn, CO. I'm so very glad to be with you again to celebrate Eucharist together this third Sunday of Lent. It is good to be here with you again -both those of you on Zoom and all of you gathered here in person today. Let us continue…
The grace of Jesus, our Living Water,
the love of our Compassionate God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

Mother Alice:
In this Lenten season, we come as a thirsty people—
thirsty for justice, for mercy, for belonging, for hope.
Today we gather at the well of God's presence,
trusting that even in dry places, living water still flows.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Mother Alice:

Let us pause and remember the ways we have turned away
from the springs of life God offers us.

Silence

Mother Alice:
You are the Rock from whom mercy flows. God, have mercy. **All: God, have mercy.**

You cross boundaries to meet us where we are. Christ, have mercy. **All: Christ, have mercy.**

You call us to walk together as one family, undivided. Sophia Spirit, have mercy.

All: Sophia Spirit, have mercy.

May our Loving God open our hearts, heal what is divided within us, and lead us to life everlasting**. All: Amen**.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God,
you know our thirst before we name it.
You hear our complaints and our cries,
yet you do not turn away.

As you brought water from the rock in the desert,
and living water from a well at noon,
bring forth in us a faith that trusts your presence
even when the way is hard.

Unite us as one people—a family of families—
so that, walking together in the Spirit,
we may become a spring of hope for a weary world.



We ask this in the name of Jesus,
our companion and our Christ. **All: Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Lynne Barnes, Lector*
A Reading from the Book of Numbers 20:1-13
In the first month of the year, which was for the Hebrews the first month of Spring, the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin. They stayed at Kadesh, which means "Holy Place." There, Miriam died and was buried. Miriam was a leader among the Israelites along with Aaron and Moses, her brothers.
Now, there was no water for the community in Kadesh. The people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron, for they thirsted for water. They quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." The people complained, "If only we'd died when we were in captivity in Egypt! Did you bring us, God's people, into this desert, so that we and our children and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, no grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"
Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell prostrate, face down. The glory of God appeared to them. God said to Moses, "Take the staff and call the people together. Speak to the rock around which they will gather, and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community, so that all and their livestock can drink."
So, Moses took the staff, which had remained in the Tent, just as God had commanded. Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together around the rock. Moses said to them: "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the entire community and their livestock drank.
And so, from beneath the holy land where Miriam had been buried, waters flowed in a running stream for all to drink. The Word of ancient Priestly Writers.
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm O Dios. . . (Rinstr; Rcant; Rall; V3; Rall)

Second Reading *Jim Berry, Lector*

Today We're Called, by Thea Bowman, from **In My Own Words.**

Today we're called to walk together in a new way toward that land of promise, and to celebrate who we are and whose we are. If we as Church walk together, don't let nobody separate you. That's one thing black folk can teach you. Don't let folk divide you or put the lay folk over here and the clergy over here, put the bishops in one room and the clergy in the other room, put the women over there and the men over here.

The Church teaches us that the Church is a family. It a family of families, and the families got to stay together. We know that if we do stay together, if we walk and talk and work and play and stand together in Jesus' name, we'll be who we say we are, truly Catholic; and we shall overcome—overcome the poverty, overcome the loneliness, overcome the alienation and build together a holy city, a new Jerusalem, a city set apart where they'll know we are God's because we love one another. Words Inspired by God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Lenten Gospel Acc (V4)

Gospel

Our Loving God is within you. **And also within you.**

A Proclamation of the Gospel attributed to John 4:5-30, 39-40 **All: Glory to you, O God.**

Jesus came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob and Rachel had given to their son, Joseph. Rachel and Jacob's well was there. It was the well where Rachel had been drawing water for her sheep when she first met Jacob who sojourned in that land.

Jesus, weary from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink". (The disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Judean.



I am a Samaritan and a woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (Judeans were told not to share vessels, or even associate, with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink', you would have asked me for a drink. I would then have given you living water." The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water from? Are you greater than our ancestors Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well, and drank from it themselves along with their children and their flocks?" Jesus responded, "Whoever drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to life everlasting." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."
Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'. You've had five husbands, and the one whom you care for now is not your husband. What you've said is true!" The woman replied, "Sir, I see that you are a seer, a prophet. You should know, then, that our ancestors worshipped on this mountain; but you Judeans say that the place people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, dear woman, the hour is coming when you will worship God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem... The time is coming, and is now here, when true worshippers will worship our Loving God in spirit and truth. Indeed, God seeks worshippers such as these. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Jesus, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed, the Christ. The Messiah will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am the Messiah, the one who is speaking with you."
Just then Jesus' disciples returned. They were astonished that he

was speaking with a woman, but no one said to her, “What do you want?” or to Jesus, “Why are you speaking with her?”
The woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ”Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?” They left the city and went to Jesus.
Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's word and her testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” When the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he did. He stayed there two days.
The Good News of Jesus or Christ.
All: Praise to you, Jesus our Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

Mother Alice: Let us profess the faith that calls us to walk together.

All:
We believe in God, the Source of all life,
who journeys with us through desert and promise,
calling us into community and covenant.
We believe in Jesus, Living Water and Word made flesh,
who crossed every boundary of fear and exclusion,
revealing a God who seeks all who
worship authentically in spirit and in truth.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, flowing among us like a living spring,
forming us into one Church, a family of families,
sent to heal division, to work for justice,
and to love without limit.
We believe in the communion of all God’s people,
the forgiveness of sins, the dignity of every person,
and the hope of life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People *Jim Berry, Lector*

Mother Alice: Trusting in the God who hears the cry of thirsty people,
let us bring our prayers to the well of mercy.

Our response is Overflowing Love, hear our prayer. **All: Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.**
For the Church, that we may remain united, as one family, resisting division and walking together in Jesus' name. We pray
All: Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.
For all who thirst—for clean water, for justice, for dignity, for peace—especially those made invisible or forgotten. We pray:
All: Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.
For leaders of nations and communities, that they may listen deeply to the cries of the people and choose paths that lead to life. We pray:
All: **Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.**
For those who grieve, like Miriam's people in the desert, that they may find comfort and renewed strength. We pray:
All: Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.
For all of us gathered here, that encountering Christ at the well, we may leave our empty jars behind and become witnesses of hope. We pray;
All: Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.
The prayers from the sanctuary are …,we pray.
All: Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.
Are there prayers from those on zoom…, we pray.
All: Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.
For all people on our Prayer List and those we hold in our hearts, we pray.
All: Overflowing Love, hear our prayer.
Mother Alice: Loving God, you know our needs before we speak them. Receive these prayers
and make of us a people through whom your living water flows. **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 in all of you. **All: And also within you.**

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

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

As we prepare our tables with what food we have, 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. (Suitcase of Lent responses will be brought up, placed before altar and opened.)
Let us sing together. . .

Offertory Healing Waters (R; V1; R; V2; R)

Preparation of the Gifts (during Offertory song)
Blessed are You, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Foundation of our life. **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. **All: Blessed be God forever.**
O God, wash away my iniquity and ambivalence, cleanse my heart and soul. Pray, my beloved siblings, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God.
All: May God accept our sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of God’s name for our good and the good of all God’s creation.

Eucharistic Prayer

Christ is within you**. All: And also within you.**
Let us open our hearts. **All: We open them up to God.**
Let us give thanks to God**. All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just, our joy and our salvation,
to give you thanks, Loving God, at all times and in all places.

In the desert, you gave water from the rock.
At the well, you offered living water through your Son.
In every age, you meet your people not with condemnation, but with compassion.

You gather us—diverse and divided—and make us one body,
a family called to remain together, to love as you love.

And so, with all who long for justice and peace, with prophets, saints, and all the faithful,
we lift our voices in praise:

Holy MOD

Please join us in raising your hands over the gifts:
Send your Spirit upon these gifts and upon us, your people,that this bread and wine may become
the Body and Blood of Christ, ✠ and that we may become one body, one spirit in your love.

Together, we, the Body of Christ, remember what Jesus did at table and in life.
Who, on the night before he was betrayed, and among friends, He took 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 the cup; again he gave you thanks and,handing the cup to his disciples, 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 all sothat sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Mem Acc MOD (Save Us)

God of Love and Peace, through Jesus our Christ you have entrusted us with this Passover meal, this pledge of Love.
Together then with your servants of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, and people of every faith and no faith, we remember that your Love is our salvation not our possession. May this love convert us from the pattern of this passing world and conform us to the pattern of Christ.
Remember, O Holy Mystery, all those who have died. Welcome them into your all-embracing Love where you gather all people into yourself.
Setting our wisdom, our own wills, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn to unite with the Love Christ offers our world as together now we say…

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

The Prayer of Jesus

Please turn to those of us at home. Joining together we pray the words that Jesus gave us…
All: Abba/Amma God 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

Fractioning Rite: Silently with Instrumental music

The Shared Table – Eucharistic Ministers divide the bread, place the wine on the stands.

This is the living God. This is the One who transforms us and

our world. Blessed 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 share in this living sacrament of power and vulnerability, of community and individuality, of pain and joy, let us proclaim 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.

This sacred meal is offered for all of us to share, without exception.
Coming to this table, Christ calls us to a deeper kinship than we can imagine. The door to the heart of God is open, enter, come forward, join in the feast of sacrifice and love.

Communion Sacred Silence (R; V1; R; V2; R)

Prayer after Communion -- If you are able, please stand.

Let us pray.

Loving God,
you have fed us with living bread and refreshed us with a cup of blessing.
As we leave this table, send us out like the woman at the well—changed, courageous, and ready to tell what we have seen and heard. Make our lives a spring of hope for all we meet. **All: Amen.**

Blessing

May the God who hears your thirst walk with you through every desert.
May Christ, our Living Water, renew your strength and your hope.
May the Spirit unite you as one family, sent to love and serve the world.

And may Almighty God bless you, ✠ the Creator, the Word, and the Wisdom. **All: Amen**.

Dismissal



Go in peace, walking together toward the promise. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song: Overflow (V1; V2; R; V3; R)