Mary of Magdala, ECC –- September 6, 2026

Celebrating the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – And Labor Day Weekend -- Together Wherever We Are

Presider: Mother Rosean Amaral

Deacon: Dori Healy Assisting

Welcome and Announcements: *Lector Art Bavoso*

Social Justice Reflection: *Tom Moos, Chair*

Entrance Song: Our God is Here (V1; R; V2; R)

Greeting: Mother Rosean

Let us continue as one expression of God's people, in the name of Amma/Abba God, our brother Jesus, and the Holy Spirit Sophia.

All: Amen

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Mother Rosean welcomes…

Dori: And now let us remember the Author of all Creation…

Penitential Act

Gracious God,
You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. Help your people to sustain them.

All: Help your people to sustain them.

Source of Life,



You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, and corals. Help your people to sustain them.

All: Help your people to sustain them.

Creator Spirit,
You created Mother Earth, our common home, who sustains us. Help your people to sustain Her.

All: Help your people to sustain Her.

God of light and life, help us to care for the beauty of your creation, renew us by your nurture and blessing, and bring us to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

Dori: And now let us sing our praises to God…

Gloria: Glory and Praise (Mass of Welcoming)

Opening Prayer

Dori: Let us pray…

God of all creation,

How splendid and majestic is the world you created!

It reveals your glory; it teaches us about you.

When you made us in your image, you gave us this command:

care for the world and for all the creatures in it, for this is our common home.

Yet your holy creation cries out, for our home is “burdened and laid waste,”

scorched and scared.

Come among us that we might remember our interdependence.

Let us see the face of your Son in those who suffer from the destruction of our common home.

Help us to be stewards who honor you in the world you have made for the good of all creation and for future generations.

In Jesus' name we pray,

All: Amen. (USCCB website)

Dori: Let us joyfully listen to the Word of God, the good news in our midst. Some stories today will be from the Scriptures and some will acknowledge that God speaks into the world through other voices as well.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading: *Lector Art Bavoso*

The Book of Ruth. (2: 2-9)

Ruth, a young widow and a Moabite, lived with her mother-in-law, Naomi. All of Naomi's children had died, and Naomi also was widowed. Together, they moved to Judah, Naomi's home country.

In order to sustain themselves, Ruth, said to Naomi, "Let me go glean ears of grain in the field of anyone who will allow me that favor." Naomi replied, "Yes, go, my daughter." So, she went and gleaned in a field behind the harvesters. She happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Naomi's husband, Elimelech (which means God is my Ruler).



Just then, Boaz returned from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “God be with you.”

“God bless you!” they replied.

Boaz asked the head laborer of the harvesters, “Where does this young woman come from? To whom does she belong?” The head laborer replied, “She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She asked, ‘Please, let me glean whatever falls from the sheaves behind the reapers.’ Ever since early this morning until now she has been on her feet, with scarcely a moment’s rest.”

Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Listen, my daughter. Don’t glean in anyone else’s field, and don’t leave my field. Stay close to the other women who work for me. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. Whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the pitchers of water they have drawn.”

The Word of an Ancient Storyteller.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Grant Us Peace (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)

Second reading: *Lector Deb Klein*

***In the Midst of Creation’s Wheel*, by Steven Charleston, from Spirit Wheel.**



It was not my hand

That sketched the deep valley of the earth

Or shaped the jagged edges

Of the great mountain's summit.

I did not cast the embers of stars against the night sky

Or pour the waters of the sea onto the dry land.

There is a mind far greater than mine at work

A will and a purpose exceeding what I could even dream.

When life seems out of control, I go outside

To remind myself of that fact.

I stand in the midst of creation's wheel

And watch in wonder the quiet majesty of its turning.

We are in the care of love without limit or definition

Under the protection of a love that never looks away.

Words Inspired by God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acc: **Alleluia (Mass of the Desert) "Your words are spirit"**

Gospel

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

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel attributed to Matthew 20:1-16



All: Glory to you, O God.

The kin-dom of heaven is like an owner of a vineyard who went out early in the morning to hire workers. After agreeing with the workers for the usual daily wage, one denarius, the workers went into the vineyard. When the

owner went out about nine o'clock and found others standing idle in the marketplace, the wine grower said to them, "You also go to my vineyard, and I will pay you what is just." So, they went. Then the owner went out

again about noon, and then also at about three o'clock, and did the same. And about five o'clock, still others were standing around.

So, the owner said, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"

They replied, "Because no one has hired us."

The wine grower said, "You also go into my vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to the manager, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." Those who were hired at the end of the day came

forward and received the usual daily wage, one denarius. Then, when the first workers came forward, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each, a usual day's wage. They took it, but grumbled at the wine grower saying,

"The workers who came last have put in only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, even though we have done a heavy day's labor in the heat."

The landowner answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you. Did we not agree on one denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to pay the latecomer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own affairs? Why should you be envious because I am generous?” It is in this way that the last will be first, and the first, last.

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: Praise to you, Jesus our Christ.

Homily – Mother Rosean

No Creed

Prayers of the People: *Lector Deb Klein*

Let us bring forth our prayers for all of Creation…

Our response is: Creator God, we trust your love that never looks away.

All: Creator God, we trust your love that never looks away.

May we continue to support our community farms, backyard gardeners, and farmers markets, those who love the land and bring us their best seasonal foods. We pray

All: Creator God, we trust your love that never looks away.

For the physical, mental, emotional, and intellectual health and well-being of us here, on zoom and our families. We pray

All: Creator God, we trust your love that never looks away.

For our congressional leaders from the people to serve the people with wisdom, compassion ,and immediate and long-range vision. We pray

All: Creator God, we trust your love that never looks away.

The prayers from the sanctuary are . . .We pray

All: Creator God, we trust your love that never looks away.

Are there prayers from zoom?. . . We pray

All: Creator God, we trust your love that never looks away.

For the people on our prayer list and those we hold in our hearts. We pray

All: Creator God, we trust your love that never looks away.

Mother Rosean: God of all that was, is, and shall be, hear the prayers we have spoken, the hopes we carry quietly within our hearts, and grant them according to your wisdom, through Jesus the Christ.

All: Amen

The Peace:

Dori: Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you my peace, my peace I give you." May the Peace of Christ be within you all.

All: And also within you.

Dori: Please turn toward the camera to offer a sign of peace to our siblings at home and then toward each other.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Dori: 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 able.

REMINDER TO PASS DORI'S CROSS TO EACH PERSON FOR A BLESSING DURING OFFERTORY SONG.

Let us sing together…

Offertory: We Come to You (V1; R; V2; R)

Preparation of the Gifts (During Offertory Song)

Blessed are You, Loving God of all Creation, through Your goodness we have this bread to place on Your table. Work of earth and human hands. May it 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 place on Your table. Work of earth and human hands. May it become our spiritual drink.

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.

Wash away my iniquity, cleanse me of my sin.

Prayer over the Gifts

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

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.



Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation from the Episcopal Church in Wyoming.

May The Love of God be 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.

We thank you, creator God, that we live in a place where the glorious revelation of yourself is all around us. The prairie bursts with song from wind and birds and waving grasses. The abundance of animals roaming freely reminds us of our own freedom, and the many ways you provide sustenance in your kingdom.

From the depths of the ocean floor you lifted your massive mountains and pointed them toward the heavens. We, like your Son, are called to these high places to get away and rest in communion with you.

We marvel as we wander through stately pines and twirling aspens along the creeks, where trout dance on their tails above the rocks, and deer and elk sip from the water's edge: and we remember that you have given us the Living Water to quench our thirst. Our spirit is refreshed and our strength renewed.

We welcome the passing of seasons in broad circles of time, with anticipation of new things to come, and we recognize that same feeling of hope that encircles our faith.

Our lives are lived between sunrises and sunsets and brilliant colors. But at night the limitless stars have a way of pushing back the boundaries of our lives and we dream of the heavens and your wonder.

And with all these blessings of your creation around us, O God, we come together in communities on the prairie, by rivers and streams, on mountain tops, and in their shadows in the valley, to receive your Word, which has been sown in rich soil and grown into a fruitful crop in the Body of Christ.

And so we join with saints and angels in proclaiming your glory as we sing…

Holy: MOD

As we gather to praise your name, we see your greatest glory, Jesus, reflected in each other's faces, and we know the magnitude of your love for us and ours for you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, gave it to all, and said:

All: Take this all of you, and eat it: this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, and gave it to all, saying:

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.

(Dori) Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acc: MOD (Save Us Savior)

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, who lived and died as one of us, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

++ Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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.

Great Amen: MOD

The Prayer of Jesus

Dori: Now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Agnus Dei: Mass of Welcoming

This is the Living God, the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the One whose LOVE transforms the world. Happy 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 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 Christ 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 in center, red wine and white grape juice in the metal cups)

Communion Song: One Bread One Cup (V1; R; V2; R)

Post-Communion Prayer:

Most loving God, creator of all, we give thanks for this foretaste of your glory. Through Christ and with all your saints, we offer ourselves and our lives to your service. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to stand with you in your world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant, our friend and brother.

All: Amen

Blessing:

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

Dori: Let us open our hearts to receive God's blessing…

May our hearts feel the song of the meadowlark, our minds the clearness of the mountain air, and our souls the freedom of the soaring eagle. May our faith be renewed as the creek in spring, and may we always feel the love of the community of Christ.

May the blessing of Creator God, Jesus, the Living Water, and the Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, be upon you and remain with you always. **All: Amen**

Dismissal:

Dori: We are the stewards of Mother Earth. May we go forth to protect her in all our actions and decisions.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song: **Can We Love (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)**

