



Mary of Magdala, ECC

December 7, 2025

Celebrating the 2nd Sunday of Advent and The Immaculate Conception--

“Being a Community of Light” Mother Rosean Amaral Presiding

Welcome and Announcements *Lector David Cloyd*

Entrance Song **To You, O God (R; V1, R; V2, R; V3, R)**

Lighting of the 2nd Candle As we light the 2nd candle which represents peace, let us pray together:

**All: God beyond understanding,
On this Sunday which celebrates your Peace,
help there to be peace in our lives, peace in our churches,
and peace in our world. Amen. Greeting**

Let us continue as one expression of God’s people in the name of our Creator God, the Eternal Son, and the Holy Spirit. **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.

(Mother Rosean welcomes all...)

Let us remember our eternal connectedness to God...

Penitential Rite

Gracious God, help us to prepare Your way in our lives.

All: Help us to prepare Your way.



Brother Jesus, help us through those rough places in our lives,
and in the lives of others. **All: Make straight the paths.**

Holy Spirit, grant that your saving presence might be visible to all.

All: Make your saving presence visible to all.

God of all souls, renew us by your nurture and blessing, forgive us our failings, and
bring us to life everlasting. **All: Amen**

(adapted from a prayer written by Sarah Dylan Breuer)

Opening Prayer Let us pray...

Companioning God,
guide us through this season of anticipation and hope.
Comfort our troubled minds, and strengthen our tired bodies.
Restore the peace this season offers,
that we might lift our voices with love and joy!
Straighten the crooked paths, that we might walk in your ways.
Level the rocky ground, that we might prepare for your arrival in our world.
In Christ's name, we pray. **All: Amen.**

~ adapted from the Ministry Matters website of the United Methodist Publishing
House. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Let us listen to the Word of God and God's people in our midst.

First Reading **Isaiah 11:1-10a** *Lector David Cloyd*

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

A flower shall come out from the root of Jesse and Ruth,



a wild shoot shall grow out from the roots.

The spirit of God will be at work in that flowering,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and wonder.

The joy of that child will be in God. Not by appearance will the child judge, nor by hearsay decide.

Instead, you shall judge the poor with justice, and defend the meek of the earth with equity.

Righteousness shall be the belt around your waist, and faithfulness will gird your loins. The wolf will nestle with the lamb.

The leopard will lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a young child will lead them.

The cow and the bear will graze in the same pasture,

their young lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child will play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child put its hand on the adder's den.

None will hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.

For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.

Then, on that day, all peoples will take refuge in the root of Jesse and Ruth.

The Word of the prophet Isaiah. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (We Are the Light (R; V1, R; V2, R; V3, R))

Second reading: *Light-Bearer*, by Joyce Rupp, from **Prayers to**



Sophia. *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

Eternal Lamp of Love, remind me often of how much radiance comes from the glow of one small candle flame.

When my spiritual wisdom is heavily clouded, and your abiding love seems far from me, restore my belief in your vibrant presence.

When I doubt my ability to be a bearer of your light, shine your truth and wisdom into my faltering spirit.

Radiant Star in my heart,
in every generation you pass into holy souls.

Thank you for the illuminated beings who have touched my life with their goodness. Your light shining through them has inspired me and filled me with spiritual energy.

Assure me that I can also be a Light-bearer for others,
a clear window of your eternal starlight.

Stir and whirl your dynamic presence in my being.

Stream your loving kindness through me.

I will open my mind and heart to your presence
as you greet me in the unexpected and the challenging.

I, too, can make a difference in my world
because of your radiant light shining through me.

I am ready to pay the price for transparency.

May my desire for deeper union with you be realized.



Words Inspired by God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (V3)

Gospel **Matthew 3: 1-12**

May the peace of our God live within you. **And also within you.**

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to You, O God.

While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called “the Baptizer,” was preaching in the desert of Judea saying, “Repent, for the kin-dom of heaven is at hand!” It was of John that the prophet Isaiah had spoken:

“A voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Prepare the way of God, make straight the paths.’”

John wore clothing made of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to John and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their offences.

When John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to receive his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham [and Sarah] as our ancestor.’ For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these very stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.



“I baptize you with water, for repentance, but after me comes one who is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: Praise to you, Jesus our Christ.

Homily-- Mother Rosean

Prayers of the People

Let us bring forth our prayers for all of Creation...

Lector Cindy Cloyd

The response to today's prayers is “God of Peace, receive our prayers.”

All: God of Peace, receive our prayers.

For the leaders of countries at war, that their hearts will be open to turn to You and to restore peace and comfort to their peoples, we pray...

All: God of Peace, receive our prayers.

For peoples of the world who suffer from cold, deprivation, and the mental anguish that conflicts and war bring, that they will be blessed with an end to their suffering, we pray...

All: God of Peace, receive our prayers.



For the homeless, the disadvantaged, and the sick of our neighborhoods and city, that they will be comforted by the generosity of God's love offered through us during this Advent Season, we pray...

All: God of Peace, receive our prayers.

For the prayers of our community in the sanctuary, we pray...

All: God of Peace, receive our prayers.

For the prayers of our family on Zoom, we pray...

All: God of Peace, receive our prayers...

For those on our prayer lists and the prayers we hold sacred in our hearts, we pray... **All: God of Peace, receive our prayers.**

God of Peace beyond understanding, we pray, knowing that our prayers will be heard and blessed with a response. In
Jesus' name we pray. **All: Amen**

Peace

Celebrating God's endless faithfulness, may the peace of Christ be with you always. **All: And also with you.**

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace, first with our siblings at home and then here in the sanctuary.

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 able.

Let us sing together... (during **Procession of the Gifts**)

Offertory Song **Ready the Way** (R; V1, R; V2, R; V3, 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

The Prince of Peace is within you. **All: And also within you.**



Let us open up our hearts. **All: We open them up to God.**

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

With joyful hearts we proclaim your greatness, you who are God our Savior.

From age to age your mercy has transformed our world: the mighty are toppled from their thrones and you raise up the lowly.

The rich are sent away while the hungry feast at your table;

The haughty lose themselves, yet the descendants of Sarah and Abraham share in your blessing.

You have done great things for us, raising us upon the wings of eagles, opening our eyes to the wonder of life, the power of love.

And so, with Mary, the humble maiden of Nazareth,

the sorrowing mother of Golgotha,

the faithful Queen of heaven,

we join your angels and saints

in proclaiming your greatness

in this hymn of endless praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Mass of St Mary Magdala

You are the holy one, source of our life, our refuge and strength.

We stand mindful that the seed

from which this bread was made

has grown in land watered

by the blood of those who have gone before us,

and that the ashes of your holy ones made fertile



the soil from which the grapes of this wine have sprung.

Send forth your Holy Spirit upon us

that bitterness and anger and malice may be no more.

Unite us so that, with hearts renewed, we may follow the way of love.

May She overflow into our assembly +

that we might behold the wondrous mystery of your table,

the Body and Blood of our brother, Jesus, the Christ.

On the night when the ancient story of deliverance was told,

Jesus took the bread and invited all those in hunger and need

to come, to eat and to share, 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 a final cup of the fruit of the vine.

Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to all, 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 faith.

Memorial Acclamation Mass of St MM



With grateful hearts
we offer this life-giving sacrifice
which reveals to us the depth of your love.

With faithful hearts
we bind ourselves in everlasting covenant
to be siblings in Christ.

With exultant hearts
we celebrate our great dignity as your people.

With hopeful hearts
joined with our bishops Kae and Pablo, and our 301 Faith Partnership, we pray for
the day when all your people will sit at table together.

With giving hearts
we promise to follow Jesus' example
and to place ourselves in service to all who are in need.

With loving hearts we
commend to your mercy our beloved dead
and all who have died in the hope of rising again.
Welcome them to your eternal banquet
and dry the tears of all who mourn.

Around this table,
we stand in the communion of saints,
with Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our spiritual Mother.

Through our sharing in this meal,
may we find the strength
to continue our journey to your holy mountain,
where the veil will be pulled away
and we shall behold at last the richness of Jesus' reign



in a land of peace, justice, freedom, and love.

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.

Great Amen Mass of St MM

The Prayer of Jesus

Let us turn to the camera and join with our siblings to pray 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, the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen

The Shared Table

Lamb of God (sung)

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 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 hosts in center. Both red wine and white grape juice are available in the metal cups)

Communion Song Ave Maria (Cantor) (R; V1, R; V2, R, V1-instr; R)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray... Thank You, Brother Jesus, for this meal of remembrance that deepens our connection to you.

We ask that you give us a heart like Mary's: humble, trusting, and open to Your will.

Teach us to ponder Your words in our hearts, to find courage in suffering, and to live with faith-filled love each day. In your name we pray. **All: Amen.**

Concluding Rite and Dismissal

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

Let us open our hearts to receive God's blessing...

May the power of the Holy Spirit make the rough places in your life smooth;
May the dark valleys of your hearts be filled, and the rugged mountains leveled,
and the way of God be made ready in you;
and may our God come to you and bless you
and shine forth from you, both now and forevermore.

We ask for this blessing now in the name of Amma/Abba God, our brother Jesus, and the Holy Spirit Sophia. **All: Amen**

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<http://www.rockies.net/>)



Dismissal

Go in peace to love and care for one another in the name of our Mother Mary and our Brother Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song Come, Emmanuel (V1, R; V2, R; V3, R)

(M. Rosean will invite people to adjourn to the Fellowship Hall for our St. Nicholas Day celebration.)