



Mary of Magdala, ECC – October 15, 2023

Celebrating – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Together Wherever We Are

Father Michael Nicosia presiding

Welcome and Announcements:

Lector Lynne Barnes

Social Justice Reflection

Tom Moos, Chair Social Justice Ministry

Entrance Song – A Rightful Place

Refrain Let us live our lives so that all might see that our hearts are restless till they rest in thee. Let us build your kingdom in truth and grace so that all might know they have a rightful place.

1. Beauty ever ancient and new, breaking through our deafness so we hear you. Shattering the

Refrain and Verse 1 based on Confessions, St. Augustine of Hippo, ca. 400. Text and music © 2012, Steve Angrisano. Published by Spirit & Song®, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.

darkness of night, a new dawn is rising to bring your light to all the world. Refrain

2. To gather in your presence we came to be one in spirit, in truth and name; strengthened by the body of Christ, taking up the call now to share your light with all the world. Refrain

Greeting and Welcome

All: In the name of the Father, **☩** and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Penitential Rite

Today Isaiah affirms that God will lift the veil of those who mourn, the shroud that is cast over all peoples. As we continue our worship, let us observe a moment of silence in solidarity with our Israeli and Palestinian siblings in the midst of war.

Let us pray: All-forgiving God, you call everyone to your holy mountain.

Have mercy on us. **All: Have mercy on us.**

You take away the disgrace of our sins. Have mercy on us.

All: Have mercy on us.

You enable us to reflect and empower us to do better. Have mercy on us.

All: Have mercy on us.

Assured of God's promises, we ask God to forgive us our sins **☩**, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

With thankful hearts we are bold to sing:

Glory to God *Mass of the Joyful Heart*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people here on earth.

1. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,

we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,

Refrain.



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Opening Prayer

God of life, you will wipe away our tears and destroy the power of death. As we place our trust in you, help us to console one another and be instruments of your peace

through Jesus Christ, your Son, our brother, who, united with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and works in the midst of community, now and always. **All: Amen.**

Let us now be attentive to God's word, alive and active in our midst.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 25: 6-10a Lector Lynne Barnes

On this mountain, the God of All will prepare for you a banquet of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, fine food filled with marrow, fine wines strained clear.

On this mountain, God will lift the veil of those who mourn, the shroud that is cast over all peoples.

For God will destroy death for ever.
God will wipe away tears from every cheek,
and take away indignity from all the earth.
For God has spoken.

On that day it will be said,
"This is our God!
This is the One for whom we have waited!
This is the One in whom we put our hope!
This is our God who completes our joy and makes us whole.

We rejoice! We exult in this unending feast!
The hand of God rests on this mountain!"

The Word of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 23- The Lord is My Shepherd (sung)

Refrain The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. He lets me rest in open fields so green. He leads me to the quiet streams. He gives me strength and guides me in his ways. He renews his promises each day. Refrain

2. He is my guide, my shepherd and my king, and in my fear he offers peace. Though I walk through the valley, I will not be afraid. You will protect me; I'll be saved. Refrain

3. He goes before me; my enemies will fall. He is my shepherd and my shield. His anointing is upon me, and I will overcome. His blessing cannot be undone. Refrain

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Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-20. Lector Pedro Engel

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.



Beloved, I know how to live in humble circumstances. I also know how to live with abundance.

In every circumstance, and in all things, I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need.

I can do all things in the Christ who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share in my distress. As you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only.

Even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

I have received full payment, and I abound. I am very well supplied because of what I received from you through Epaphroditus, “a fragrant aroma,” an acceptable gift pleasing to God.

My God will fully supply whatever you need in accord with the glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our Abba/Amma God be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God’s people.
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation – *Mass of the Joyful Heart*

Refrain

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia,

Let your heart rejoice in the Lord.
Let your word proclaim his deeds.
Let your voice sing out to the world
that our God has come to save.

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Gospel Matthew 22:1-14. Father Michael Nicosia

My siblings in Christ, our God is with you. **All: And also with you.**

A Proclamation of the Good News attributed to Matthew. **All: Glory to you, O God.**

While teaching at the Temple, Jesus spoke again in parables, saying:

The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who prepared a wedding feast for the family heir; but when the ruler sent out servants to summon the invited guests, they wouldn't come.

The ruler sent more servants, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: ‘I have prepared this feast for you. My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’” But they took no notice and went off, one to his field, another to her business.

The rest seized the servants, attacked them brutally and killed them.

The ruler was enraged and sent an army who destroyed the murderers and burned their city.

Then the ruler said to the servants, “The wedding feast is ready, but those I invited do not deserve the honor. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet everyone you find.”

The servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, until the wedding hall was filled with guests. But the ruler came in to see the guests and noticed



one person there who was not wearing the wedding clothes he had provided for the occasion and asked “My friend, how did you get in without wedding clothes?”

No answer came but silence. Then the ruler told the company gathered, “Tie this one up hand and foot, and throw the

impostor outside where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Many are called, but few are chosen.

The Good News of Jesus, our Christ. **All: Praise to you, Jesus, our Christ.**

Homily: “Beyond Indignant”. Fr Michael Nicosia

Let us now affirm our interconnectedness through an articulation of our faith.

Our Truth

We believe in God, our Mother out-pouring, our Father uniting, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and yet to be revealed.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word eternally spoken by God, our brother and teacher, through whom all things were made and hold together.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For the sake of the truth he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; and on the third day rose from the dead.

He ascended into heaven yet remains active in our midst.

He will come again in glory to unite the living and the dead, and our communion with him will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son as the dynamic expression of their relationship and channel of their love. With the Father and the Son, She is worshiped and glorified. We believe in the ways She unites us: through her prophetic challenge, through the Body of Christ, the Church, in our shared baptism, in our sacrifices on behalf of others, in our hope in the resurrection, and in the fulfillment of God’s promise in eternity. Amen.

(Fr. Michael J. Nicosia © 2020)

Prayers of the People

Fr. Michael: Please be seated.

Mindful of Jesus’ inclusive invitation to the Kingdom’s banquet, let us intercede for the needs of the Church and the world

Lector Pedro Engel

Our response is: Make us a channel of your peace.
All: Make us a channel of your peace.

For the leaders of all nations, especially those who are at war with each other, that they may open their

minds and hearts to find a way to wage peace, we pray, **Response: Make us a channel of your peace.**

For all churches and faith traditions that they may lead through the example of love and compassion for all people and be a source of healing and peace,



we pray, **Response: Make us a channel of your peace.**

For all those who are food insecure, housing insecure, medically insecure that they may find the resources they need to simply live, we pray, **Response: Make us a channel of your peace.**

I will now read the prayers from those in the sanctuary.... we pray, **Response: Make us a channel of your peace.**

Are there prayers from the people on zoom?we pray, **Response: Make us a channel of your peace.**

And for all the people on our prayer list and the prayers you hold in your heart, we pray, **Response: Make us a channel of your peace.**

God of our Strength, we can do all things through you.

Hear these prayers together with those still deep within our hearts; and fully satisfy our every need according to your riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

To our Abba/Amma God be glory forever and ever.
All: Amen

The Peace

Gathered on God's holy mountain,
may the peace of Christ be with you always.
All: And also with you.

Please turn toward the camera first and offer a sign of Christ's peace, then extend that peace to those around you..

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 called and able.

You may be seated if you wish

Let us sing together

Procession of the Bread and Wine

Offertory Song – Here I Am

Refrain Here I am, standing right beside you. Here I am; do not be afraid. Here I am, waiting like a lover. I am here; here I am.

1. Do not fear when the tempter calls you. Do not fear even though you fall. Do not fear, I have conquered evil. Do not fear, never be afraid. Refrain

2. I am here in the face of ev'ry child. I am here in ev'ry warm embrace. I am here with tenderness and mercy. Here I am; I am here. Refrain

3. I am here in the midst of ev'ry trial. I am here in the face of despair. I am here when pardoning your brother. Here I am, I am here. Refrain



Preparation of the Gifts

(During Offertory Song)

Blessed are you, Loving God of all creation.
We set before you this humble food and drink
which earth has given and human hands have made.
In the sharing may we be trained to live together
well.
Blessed be God forever.

The Washing of Hands

Creator God, we ask you to receive us and to be
pleased with
the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite
hearts.
Wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

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

**All: May God accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of God's name, for our
good, and the good of all God's creation.**

God of blessing, you satisfy our deepest needs. In
thanksgiving we offer these humble gifts; in
thanksgiving we share them freely to your honor and
glory through Christ who unites us and all that is in
you. Amen.

*Preface of God's Faithfulness
by Michael J. Nicosia © 2016 for Pax Christi ECC Denver*

God is with you. **All: And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them up to God.**

We thank you, Father of the Promise, Mother most
faithful, for you called us to life.

Before you formed us in the womb you not only
dedicated us for your divine purpose, but dedicated
yourself to a covenant relationship.

You do not abandon us on our way and hear us when
we cry to you. Through each day's wilderness you
lead your people and preserve them in your love.

Keeping hope alive, your Spirit abides forever with us
and for us, working within this community of
compassion and care.

The faith we share continually reminds us of your
faithfulness, made tangible in the person, ministry
and self-gift of your Son who accompanies us on our
journey through times of ease and tribulation
to the very day of our hope's fulfillment in heaven.

And so we join all the angels and saints
in singing the praise of your glory:

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

Holy Holy Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy Holy God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are they who come in the name of our God,
in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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We commit ourselves to the community of faith
in which this song resonates.
Acknowledging that liturgy is the work of the people,
I ask that you all raise your hands over these gifts
as I pray:

We call upon You, most merciful God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon the offerings we have set before You in our
homes.



Bless ☩ these gifts that we may experience our life and unity in Christ.

Nurtured by hope and love and faith
may our sharing be a sign that You are truly present
and that we are truly united in You.
We remember what your Son did at table and in life,
remembering what he did out of love, the self-gift
that was his death.
Jesus took bread, gave You thanks and praise,
broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying:

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

When the supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again he gave You thanks and praise, gave the cup to the 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.**

Memorial Acclamation – (sung)

Mass of the Joyful Heart

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Christ,
until you come again.**

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Loving God, we celebrate the memory of Christ, your Son, all that he did and continues to do to bring your blessings to the whole of your Creation.

While we ask you to remember all our sisters and brothers of many faiths and spiritual paths, who each

bring their own insights and blessings to our world, remember, too, your Church, united across the miles.

Make us grow in love, together with all who hold and spread the good news and challenge of your love handed down to us from the Apostles.

Strengthen the bonds of our shared ministry within our Rocky Mountain Region in union with our Bishop, Kae.

Keep us united in faith through the holy conversations across our Communion guided by our Presiding Bishop, Pablo.

And keep us united in good works and in the spread of the good news of your inclusive love in collaboration with our 301 Faith Partners and beyond.

Remember, Merciful God, those who have died. Welcome them into your glorious presence with Mary, your Mother, our patron Mary of Magdala, your apostles and martyrs and saints, and, indeed, all the dead who are alive in you, as they enjoy the fullness of the communion that is our destiny.

All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for all glory and honor is yours, self-emptying/life giving Father/Mother, forever and ever.

Great Amen. — MOJH

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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The Prayer of Jesus

Let us turn again to the camera
so that we can pray together in the words our Savior gave us:



All: Abba/Amma, 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 - *Mass of the Joyful Heart*

(Sung)

**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.**

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Breaking of the Bread

May this mingling of the body and blood of Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it. Integral to the promise we celebrate, with faith in your love and mercy we eat your body and drink your blood.

Let it not bring us condemnation, but health in mind and body.

Behold Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are we who are called to this communion.

All: Jesus, I am ready to receive you, and by your invitation I am here.

Let us affirm...

**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.**

May the body and blood of Christ bring us to everlasting life.

Invitation to Communion

At this table Christ and the Church celebrates communion.

Indeed, it is the sacrament of inclusion that gives testimony to the breadth of God's love. Come to the feast, for all are welcome!

3. God has eyes for justice, ears to hear your cry. God knows your broken heart. God redeems a loyal servant. Take refuge in your God. Refrain

Communion Song – Taste and See

Refrain: Taste and see the goodness of our god, the goodness of our God. Taste and see the goodness of our God, the goodness of our God.

1. I will bless God at all times. Praise will be on my lips. My soul will glory in our God. The poor will hear and be glad. Refrain

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Prayer after Communion

God of mercy and loving-kindness, in this holy supper you have given us a share in the life of your Son.

Preserve in us this grace, this enduring blessing so bountiful that it increases with the sharing

until it benefits all your children and the whole of your creation.

This we ask and can do through Christ, our blessing.

All: Amen

Concluding Rite and Dismissal

God is with you. **All: And also with you.**

May the One whose blessings endure bless you, the Source of All-being, the Eternal Word, ☧ and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The mass is ended, let us go in peace to love and serve God and one another.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song – Let All the Earth

Refrain Let all the earth cry out, cry out to God with joy! Let all the earth cry out, cry out to God with joy!

1. Sing out your joy; praise the glory of God's holy name. Say to our God: "Oh, how awesome are your mighty ways." Refrain

2. Come now and hear all the things our God has done for me. Blessed be our God who holds me close, whose love is surrounding me. Refrain

3. All the earth shall bow before you, singing to your holy name. See the work of God, the wonders of his deeds from age to age. Refrain

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