



Mary of Magdala, ECC— September 20, 2026

Celebrating 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time — All Together Everywhere

Presider: *Reverend Jane Reina*

Homilist: *Art Bavoso*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Becky Chavez, Matt Chavcz*

Welcome and Announcements: *Lector Matt Chavez*

Entrance Song *Jesus, I Trust In You. (R; V1; R; V2; R)*

Greeting *Rev. Jane Reina*

Welcome to the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. This gospel seems similar to one from a couple of weeks ago when Jesus tells of the landowner giving the same day's wage to the person who came at the end of the day and worked one hour as the landowner gives to the one who worked all day, from early until late. The message is that no matter how late we come to the Divine, God's love welcomes us.

Again, I invite everyone here and at home to sit, let go of the news of the day, let go of whatever is heavy on your heart, take a deep breath or two, try to relax into this sacred space, drop your shoulders and release some of the stress we hold in our bodies. Relax into the warmth of God, a God who holds us in the mystery of infinite and unconditional love. Surrender your heart and mind to God in this hour.



Let us open ourselves to the Season of Creation, and to today's scripture and its possibilities.

+ In the name of the All-Compassionate Creative Mystery, Jesus—our Christ, and the Holy Spirit—Sophia.

All: Amen

Penitential Rite

In humble gratitude for God's never-ending, cherishing love we pray:

All: Together, we turn back to you, O Christ, knowing you welcome us even in the midst of our turning, just by our yearning to return. Bless us with both *knowledge* and *experience* of you as we turn with deep longing and open hearts for the oneness you offer. We come in fragility and vulnerability recognizing the violence within our own hearts.

Rev. Jane: We turn back to you, O God, when we recall that we have confined You within our human mindset and deny that you are the diversity and unity within all creation.

All: We thank you, O Ancient One, for calling us to remember.



We turn back to you, O Christ, when we recall that we have forgotten that You are our consciousness of You speaking to us through all of creation.

All: We thank you, O Christ, for calling us to remember.

We turn back to you, Holy Spirit, when we recall that we have forgotten that You make all things new.

All: We thank you, Holy Spirit, for calling us to remember.

Gloria *(Mass of Welcoming)*

Opening Prayer

God, the blessed Holy Three, is within you.

All: And also within you.

Let us pray: O Sacred Mystery, Creator of all that exists, You gather us here so we may know the flow of grace as the river flows, responding to each season without reservation and open to where we find grace. Water holds the message of Jesus in its simplicity and its own radical transformation. Help us to flow with your message and let it seep out of us and into the world like water.

All: Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated as we are presented with the inspired Word of God.

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-27, 22a, 28, 23, 29-32. *Lector Matt Chavez*

"You say, 'God's ways are unjust!' Hear now, O People:
Are My ways unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust?"
"If a righteous person turns away from what is right and
does wrong, they will die for it. Because of the evil they
committed, they must die. If a wicked person abandons the
wrong they have committed and does what is just and right,
they save their lives. None of their offenses will be
remembered. Having considered and renounced all
previous offenses, they will most certainly live; they shall
not die.

Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? Rather,
do I not rejoice when they turn from evil and live?

Yet you say, 'The ways of God are not fair.' Are My ways



unfair, O people? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

“Therefore, O people, I will judge each of you according to your own ways,” declares God. “Repent! Turn away from all your offenses. Then evil will not be your downfall.

Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed.

Make for yourself a new heart and a new spirit. Why die?

Why choose death? I, your God, take no pleasure in the death of anyone! Turn back to Me and live!

The Word of the prophet, Ezekiel.

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm The Lord Is My Sheperd (R; V1; R; V2; V3; R)

No second reading.

Gospel Acclamation *Mass of Welcoming*

Gospel - *Art Bavoso, Homilist*

Our Loving God is within you.

All: And also within you.

A proclamation of the Gospel according to Matthew (21:23-32)

All: Glory to you O God.



When he had returned to the Temple and was teaching, the chief priests and other Jewish leaders came up to him and demanded to know by whose authority he had thrown out the merchants the day before. “I’ll tell you if you answer one question first”, Jesus replied. Was John the Baptist sent from God or not?”

They talked it over among themselves. “If we say, from God”, they said, “then he will ask why we didn’t believe what John said. And if we deny that God sent him, we’ll be mobbed for the crowd all think he was a prophet.” So they finally replied, “We don’t know!” And Jesus said, “Then I wouldn’t answer your question either”.

“But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, “Son, go out and work on the farm today”. “I won’t”, he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father told the youngest, “You go!” and he said, “Yes sir, I will” but he didn’t. Which of the two was obeying the father”?

They replied, “The first of course”.

Then Jesus explained his meaning; “Surely evil men and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom before you do. For John the Baptist told you to repent and turn to God, and you wouldn’t, while very evil men and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to repent, and so you couldn’t believe”.

The Good News of Jesus, our Christ.

All: Praise to you, Jesus our Christ.

Homily: *Art Bavoso, MoM Member*

Please be seated.

Creed



All: We believe in one God, one human family, one planetary community, one body, one love, uniting all in beauty, for God's infinite love is infinite, fecund and beautiful.

We believe we are entangled with all earth life and all living creatures,

We believe this future is the relational unity of all living things in God.

We believe this earth has a future entangled with God.

We believe the heart of God is love. Amen. *A Profession of Faith, from Christogenesis*

Prayers of the People *Lector Jim Berry*

Lector: May our plea to God transform us into the Love and Peace that heals what is open to healing. So we pray...

Our response is: Loving God, receive our prayers.

For our 301 Faith Partners as we work to bring some relief to people who live in their vehicles through the Safelots Program, that the neighbors around the church will open their hearts to the realities of the program and not let their fears lead them, we pray,

Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.

For all leaders of the world to work together, especially the United States, to stop war, gun violence, financial retribution so the people may simply live, we pray, **Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.**



For Mother Earth that our actions to keep our air, water, soil, fields, forests, and mountains clean, will halt the unnecessary developments that simply take resources without thought to the future, we pray,

Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.

The prayers from the sanctuary are: ... we pray,

Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.

Are there prayers from our members on zoom? (Tom will read.)

Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.

And for all the people on our prayer lists and the prayers we hold sacred in our hearts, we pray,

Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.

Presider: O Holy Mystery, hear our prayers joined with all the prayers world-wide for peace. Help us awaken to your call to care for all creation through Christ in all matter.

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 expressed within and through you.

All: And also within and through 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.

Let us sing together. . .

Offertory Song I Will Choose Christ. (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 these, our gifts, may be acceptable to God.



All: May God accept our gifts 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 soften our hearts.

All: We have softened and opened them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

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

Blessed are you, compassionate and faithful God—to you we offer thanks and praise everywhere and always. All of creation has its origin in You. You are creation's desired fulfillment. We thank you for our planetary home and our living cosmos beyond our understanding, all holy and sacred.

We thank you for emptying Yourself into time through Jesus, thereby calling us to live your Holy Way through both our individual unique gifts and our communal gifts. The Spirit of Jesus calls us to a deeper reality that can overwhelm us with the grief of violence even as it overwhelms us with creation's beauty.

Therefore, we gladly join our voices praising you with the whole of creation:

Holy *(Mass of Welcoming)*

Flowing like water from the Exquisite Love visible and invisible throughout the entire



cosmos, send your Holy Spirit to heal us and our planet.

Please join us in raising your hands over the gifts:

O Holy Spirit, sanctify these gifts of wheat, grapes, and water from our earth, this bread and wine ++, that they may become the Body and Blood of Jesus our Christ.

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 so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Memorial Acclamation

God of Compassion and Peace, through Jesus our Christ you have entrusted us with this Passover meal, your pledge of Faithfulness and 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 grasping pattern of this world, and conform us to the abundant pattern of Christ.

Remember, O Holy Mystery, all those who have been drawn from the waters of this life to the waters of eternal life. *Pause to recollect those who have died.* We believe you welcome them into your Love, where you gather all people who have died.

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.

The Great Amen (*Mass of Welcoming*)

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

The Shared Table

Eucharistic Ministers divide the bread/.

Lamb of God, Living God *(Mass of Welcoming)*

Rev. Jane 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 creation's ultimate 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. Come to this table, or your table at home, sins forgiven and free of guilt, shame or fear: it is Christ who calls.

Come to the Christ of peace and love.

Communion Song *Pescador De Hombres (R, V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)*



Prayer after Communion

If you are able, please stand. Let us pray,

Loving and generous God, we thank you for gathering us at your tables as the Body of Christ. May we remain hopeful that your compassion flows out of us into our world, healing all of it. Nudge us to share our gifts with all of life, to serve this Earth planet and all that evolves from within it, helping to heal and reconcile all of us back into unity, as Indigenous Peoples have always known. We humbly accept you as the gift that nourishes.

All: Amen

Blessing and Dismissal

The Peace of God is within you.

All: And also within you.

May God bless us with wisdom and courage that flow like waters of grace.

In the name of the Sacred Un-nameable, the Eternal Christ, and the Wisdom Spirit, Sophia.

All: Amen

Let us go out following The Way set before us.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song Go Make A Difference. (*R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R*)