

Mary of Magdala, ECC January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time —All Together Everywhere

The Word of God-Jesus, the Fulfillment of the Prophecy, the Holy One, the Only One who could open the scroll and break its seal.

Reverend Jane Reina presiding

Jim Berry – Guest homilist

Welcome and Announcements *Art Bavoso*

Social Justice Reflection *Jared Orsi*

Entrance Song

Greeting *Rev. Jane Reina*

Welcome to the 3rd Sunday in OT. It may not feel like we are living in ordinary times. It may feel more like living in a time of dark chaos. The early Christians may have felt the same after the Resurrection of Jesus. The people of the early Eastern Rite prayed the classic penitential prayer: Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

If you, like me, were raised Roman Catholic, we believed that the penitential rite was about penance, confession, forgiveness. We prayed it that way. Today, I ask that we consider penitential from the Hebrew, teshuva, and Greek, metanoia. In both translations we can find that penitential can mean ‘to return’ or a ‘change of mind.’ It is less focused on a change of behavior and more on a change of perception of the world, a change of thinking not. Jesus taught a change in the understanding of each other as human beings, a new way of compassionate acceptance. How we do that is individual and can change over time.

Please try to remember this ‘turning back’ when we pray the penitential rite today.

So, let us continue as one expression of God's people gathered here + In the name of the Creating Mystery, Jesus our Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia. **All: Amen**

Please feel free to sit as you desire.

Penitential Rite

In humble gratitude for God's unconditional 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 intention to turn. Bless us with an *experience* of your acceptance of us as we are, an acceptance with love and warmth so deeply penetrating that it can move us to forgive ourselves and others. In You we rest in peace. You are our Light.

*Rev. Jane, by Padraig O Tuama, from **being there***

Turning to the light
the light that turns to us

Moving toward the Source
the Source moves us.

All: Because you love us, we thank you, O God.

Holding on to hope
hope holds on to us.

All: Because you love us, we thank you, O Christ.

Jesus of Nazareth, you encountered many lives
calling people to justice
love and curiosity.
May we – in all our nights, days
and activities – act with more
justice, love and curiosity.
Because this might save us,

and make us more like you,
who turns to us in love. **All: Amen**

Gloria *Glory To God (Mass of A Joyful Heart)*

Opening Prayer

God, the blessed Holy Three, is within you **All: And also within you.**

Let us pray:

God of Peace, God of Love, you continually create wonderous beauty, rich in diversity and complexity, enliven our Divine Center. Send your Spirit of exquisite wholeness more deeply into our fractured lives, so hatred may dissolve through understanding, so fear and violence may lessen as we stand on common ground, and so divisions may loosen their grip and unity be planted. May the Christ, the Servant of nonviolent Love, breathe peace into our hearts. **All: Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Let us be seated and listen to the Word of God speaking to us, God's people.

First Reading: *Lector Art Bavoso*

Truth Does Not Get Lost, by Steven Charleston, from *Ladder To The Light*.

Truth does not get lost. do not turn away from what you know is right, no matter the cost, because what you value in the Spirit is more precious than anything power or money can buy. It is your integrity. Be wise and be alert, for the practice of integrity is not as easy as it sounds.

Some people will believe whatever they hear. Others will hear only what they believe. Some will say anything to get what they want. some will want

what you have no matter what you say. some will deny what you can see so clearly for yourself. some will distract you with a card trick of the truth. But remember the truth does not get lost; it gets hidden.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Lector Art Bavoso*
from 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

Our response is: Different gifts come from the same Spirit.

Response: *Different gifts come from the same Spirit.*

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are many different ways of serving, but it is always to the same God.
There are many different forms of action,
but it is the same God who inspires them all in all.
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Response: Different gifts come from the same Spirit.

Through the Spirit, one is given a message of wisdom.
By the same Spirit, another the gift to express understanding. By the same Spirit, another is given faith.
By the One Spirit, another the gifts of healing.

Response: Different gifts come from the same Spirit.

Through the Spirit, another works wonders. Through the Spirit, another prophesies. Another discerns spirits.
Another speaks in many tongues.
Another interprets those languages.
All these gifts are inspired by the one and same Spirit. She gives to each individually, as She moves.

Response: Different gifts come from the same Spirit.

Second Reading **Revelations 5:1-5** *Lector Jim Berry*

In the right hand of the One who sat high in the heavens, I saw a scroll. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals.

Then I saw a commanding angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth could be found to open the scroll or reveal its contents. I wept bitterly because no one could be found to open or read the scroll.

One of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, the Offspring of Bathsheba, has overcome and will open the scroll with the seven seals.”

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God’s people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Proclamation Alleluia (*Mass of the Joyful Heart*) sung

Gospel

Christ is within you. **All: And also within you.**

A proclamation of the Holy Gospel according to Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

All: *Glory to You, O God*

Many others have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events fulfilled among us, just as they were passed on to us by the original eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word. I, too, have investigated everything carefully—from the beginning—and have decided to write an orderly account for you, noble Theophilus, so that you may know the truth of the teaching you received.

...

After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led him to the desert where he was tested. Then, Jesus returned to Galilee with the power of the Spirit in him. His reputation spread throughout the region. He was teaching in the synagogues in Galilee, and all were loud in their praise. When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on

the Sabbath, as was his custom. He stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him, Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passages where it was written:

“The Spirit of God is upon me. The Most High has anointed me to bring Good News to those who are poor. God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive, recovery of sight to those who are blind, release to those in prison—to proclaim the year of God’s favor.”

Rolling up the scroll, Jesus gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then Jesus said to them, “Today, in your hearing these scriptures are fulfilled.”

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

Homily *Jim Berry*

Creed *A Profession of Faith from Christogenesis*

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.**

Prayers of the People

Rev. Jane: May the God of Love shine through us, bringing healing and peace to all creation. So we pray...

Lector Jim Berry

Our response is: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

For all Americans that we may become agents of reconciliation with each other and pursue actions that will heal our country, bringing peace of heart to all, we pray, **Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.**

For our 301 Faith Partners and all churches and faith traditions that we may be a welcoming space for all seekers who want a deeper relationship with the Divine Mystery, we pray, **Response: Beloved God, receive our prayer.**

For immigrants and people with house, food, work, and medical insecurity, that those with much will give their time and resources to those places offering shelter, food, jobs, clothing, medical needs, and whatever is needed so that they may simply live, we pray, **Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.**

The prayers from the sanctuary are.....we pray, **Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.**

The prayers from our members on zoom...we pray, **Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.**

And for all the people on our prayer list and the prayers we hold in our hearts, we pray, **Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.**

O Holy Mystery, hear our prayers joined with all the prayers world-wide for peace. Help us awaken to your power within us to love and unite us through nonviolent justice and peace. **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.

Let us sing together. . .

Offertory Song: Cornerstone (V1; R; V2; R; V3; R) *No Bridge*

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 Sustenance of 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.**

Blessed are you, compassionate and faithful God—to you we offer thanks and praise everywhere and always. All that exists has its origin in you. You, O God, 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. For the life of Jesus—compassionate, nonviolent, forgiving, healing, trusting, and eternally present—transforms our living. The life of Jesus calls us to a deeper reality not of this world. We praise you, O Holy Mystery.

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

Holy *Mass of A Joyful Heart*

Flowing from the Exquisite Love visible and invisible throughout the entire cosmos, send your Holy Spirit to heal us and our planet. Sanctify these gifts of the earth, 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 *(Mass of A Joyful Heart)*

God of Love, 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 the Holy Spirit 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 *(Mass of A Joyful Heart)*

The Prayer of Jesus

Please turn to those of us at home, joining together to 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

Knowing that we live within the breath of God, we pray:

Lamb of God *(Mass of A Joyful Heart)*

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 sacrifice of love, 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 here for all of us, without exception.

As Dcn Bess of Cameroon proclaimed: "Step up to the table, Step into the Truth that in our reflection, God lives through us."

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

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

Rev Jane:

Let us pray. . .Loving and generous God, you have gathered us at this table of your Love. We thank you for nourishing us with the Bread of Peace and the Cup of Blessing. May this sacred food sustain our commitment to bring healing to creation, to overcome fear with trust, injury with pardon, and hatred with nonviolent love. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Christ. **All: Amen**

Prayer for Dori Healy

All: Heavenly Father, Master of the Universe, we ask your blessing upon Dori as she discerns her call to be ordained as Deacon. May her deep faith and servant heart be open to clarify her call to ministry. May this process deepen the harmony of her heart and soul into right action. Mary, Mother of God, continue to be a beacon of light and hope for Dori. We, members of Mary of Magdala, promise to hold Dori in prayer and in our hearts as she makes this journey—a journey ever ancient and ever new.

Dori be blessed with the flow of grace from our hands and hearts to you—knowing wisdom, wonder, and insight flow to strengthen you on your journey. May it be so. Amen.

Concluding Rite and Dismissal

The Peace of God is with you. **All: And also with you.**

Let us open our hearts and be blessed:

With the endless warmth of Awesome Mystery, bless us in the name of the Amma/Abba God, Jesus our Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia. **All: Amen**

Go, spreading the message of Light.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song - We Are the Light (*R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R*)