



Mary of Magdala, ECC March 14, 2021 Celebrating the 4th Sunday in Lent

Participants may wish to prepare their home altars with a lit candle, and the food and drink to be remotely shared.

Announcements *Lector Pedro Engel*

Social Justice Reflections *Tom Moos, co-chair Social Justice Ministry*

Pause to hold this message in our hearts.

Entrance Opening Song *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Jesus, I Trust in You

Refrain

Jesus, I trust in you, giver of mercy.
Jesus, I trust in you, O Font of Life.
Healer, teacher, Savior and friend,
Jesus, I trust in you.
All that I am is in your hands.

1. Let not this heart be troubled,
but let it rest in you.
For with you,
every sorrow will be washed away.
Let not my mind be burdened,
but set it free with truth,
for every care is lost

in understanding grace.

2. As you gave up yourself, Lord,
into your Father's hands,
so let me give myself
to all that is your will.
And as you emptied yourself,
fulfilled Love's perfect plan,
let me be emptied,
that my life might be fulfilled.

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Greeting *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

May the Divine Presence of God, the New Light of the Incarnation, and the passion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: with Linda And also with you.**

Penitential Rite *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Let us remember our God who is always with us...

God of love, you have lavished on us the riches of
your grace. Brother Jesus have mercy.
ALL: with Linda Brother Jesus have mercy.

God of kindness, you teach us to be
compassionate and to love our brothers and
sisters. Christ have mercy.
ALL: with Linda Christ have mercy.

God of peace, you are gentle and merciful to all.
Brother Jesus have mercy.
ALL: with Linda Brother Jesus have mercy.

May our loving God shower us with grace and
mercy that we may be renewed in body, mind and
spirit.
ALL: with Linda Amen



Opening Prayer - *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Let us pray

Beloved, we ask you to teach us how to act justly, love mercy, walk humbly, and love extravagantly, as we work to realize your kin-dom on earth.

In Jesus' name we pray.

ALL: with Linda AMEN

And now let us listen to the inspired Word of God in our midst.

Liturgy of the Word *Lector Pedro Engel*

The readings for today's service stray from the traditional Canonical readings for the 4th Sunday in Lent. Our first reading and the Gospel are taken from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary which names as one of its main purposes, the inclusion of every significant story about women in the Bible that is not included in the Canonical Sunday Lectionary.

Let us open our hearts and our ears to the rich collection of readings our Scripture holds, as well as honoring the woman of whom Jesus says, "Whenever the Gospel is proclaimed throughout all the world, what she has done will be told, in memory of her."

1st Reading: Letter of James 5:13-14

Is anyone among you suffering? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of Jesus the Christ.

The Word of an Early Church Leader.

ALL: with Linda Thanks be to God

Psalm - Psalm Chant for Lent:

O Dios, Crea en Mi un Corazon/Create in me a Pure Heart, O God *sung by Bill Smith and Lynne Barnes*

2nd Reading – *Lector Ann Beaven*

A Beautiful Waste, by Macrina Wiederkehr, from Seasons of Your Heart

On some resurrection walks, my heart fills up with questions, and the gift of my life makes no sense at all. I can still see that woman, bent over Jesus, pouring out her expensive flask of perfume for seemingly no reason at all. What a silly thing to do! Do not the scoffers have a legitimate complaint? What is the point of such extravagance?

Who would think that one would become so extravagant, so wasteful, as to pour out, not only perfume, but life itself? It is what we are all asked

to do in our ministering to the stranger in the folks we serve.

It has never made sense. It's a little bit crazy, as is all love, to pour out your life like that. On some days, when my hope feels small, I want to scream out with the scoffers: "Why such waste?" But on other days, when my eyes and heart are clear, and I have taken off my shoes to await that stranger, I feel immensely lavish. I feel extravagant! And with gentle conviction I proclaim: "What a beautiful waste this is!"



A jar of perfume
poured out over Jesus
and a question is born:
What is the point of such extravagance?
Why this waste?
I don't know.
I honestly don't know.
But if this shocks you so,
get ready
for you'll see more
more than costly perfume poured out.
You'll see lives poured out
given freely
used up
spilled out
wasted
for no reason at all!
Extravagance unlimited!

Lives poured out
handed over
lost
thrown away
for Jesus!
What is the point of such extravagance?
Why such waste?
Beautiful questions
with no answers.
And how sad if no one
has ever asked us:
Why this extravagance?
Aren't you wasting your life on Jesus?
Words Inspired by God.

All: with Linda Thanks be to God.

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia – Mass of the Desert *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Refrain
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so (that) everyone who believes in him might have
eternal life.

Refrain

Mass of the Desert
Tom Booth

Gospel Reading - Mark 14:1, 3-9 - Co-Pastor Rev. Jane Reina

God is with you.
A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

All: with Linda And also with you.
All: with Linda Glory to you, O God.

The Passover of the Festival of Unleavened Bread was just two days away. Jesus was staying in Bethany, near Jerusalem. While reclining at table in the home of Simon "the Leper," a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly oil. She broke open the jar and poured the fragrant oil on his head.

Some of those present said indignantly to one another, "Why waste this precious oil? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages, and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can show kindness to them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could. She anointed my body to prepare for my burial. I tell you, wherever the Gospel is proclaimed throughout all the world, what she has done will be told, in memory of her."

The Gospel of God
All: with Linda Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.



Homily *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop - *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

Let us join together in our Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop

(All to Join in on mute)

ALL: Holy One, Enlivening Spirit, In the wilderness of new, root the Body of Christ fully into our “Yes,”

blooming in Your Holy Season. Together. Amen

Prayers of the People

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

As we focus on our interconnectedness with God and with one another, let us affirm our commitment to right relationship by interceding for the needs of the Church and the world.

Lector Ann Beavan

The response is: Hear our prayers **ALL: with Linda Hear our prayers**

Help us to remember that acts of generosity toward suffering humanity are needed as much as gestures of love toward individuals.

ALL: with Linda Hear our prayers.

I now invite you to share your prayers so that we may pray in community with you. If you feel comfortable, you could press the space bar and say your prayer, OR you could type the prayer into the chat box.

(Lector to read each prayer on “chat”)we pray **All: with Linda Hear our prayers.**

And for those on our Prayer List and all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray: **Hear our prayers.**

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

Closing of Prayers of the People.

All: with Linda Amen

Sign of Peace

Co-Pastor Rev. Jane Reina

Celebrating the power of mercy and love, may the peace of Christ be with you always.

All: with Linda And also with you.

Let us all unmute and go to gallery view, that we might share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.



Offertory Meditation *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Do This in Memory of Me

1. I am the bread of life;
all who believe in me will have eternal life.
I am the bread of life
come down from heaven
so that all who eat this bread
will never die.

Refrain
Take the living bread of life,
take the cup of sacrifice;
do this in memory of me.
Take the body and the blood,
given freely out of love;
do this in memory of me;
do this in memory of me.

2. I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will not hunger again.
I am the bread of life;
no one can come to me unless the Father draws them
near to him. **(to Refrain)**

Bridge
Amen, I say to you,
unless you eat the flesh
of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you shall not have life.
All who will eat my flesh and drink
my blood will have eternal life,
and I will raise them up again. **(to Refrain)**
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Our Celebration at the Table

Co-Pastor Rev. Jane Reina

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink
from our cupboards, we are reminded that our
offerings of time, talent and treasure sustain the

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

The Love of God be with you all.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to our Loving God.

All: with Linda And also with you.
All : with Linda We lift them up to God.
All: with Linda It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God has called us to gather around these tables
this evening, knowing that all tables are God's
table. Let us welcome God and God's creative
spirit.

Blessed are you, O Holy God, and all creation
rightly gives you praise. It is our duty and our
salvation, always and everywhere to give you
thanks through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.
In Jesus, your Word became flesh and dwelt
among us and your love was made manifest in a
new way. You showered your unconditional and
extravagant love inclusively among women and
men alike. You honored the woman who anointed
you, who many criticized, "and rebuked harshly,"
and you asked that whenever the Good News is

mission of God's Church. Continue to give as you
are called and able.

proclaimed that the story of what she has done
will be told in her memory. Today we remember
her love for you and her gift of preparing your
body for the fulfillment of your destiny.

My sisters and brothers, Christ has come among
us and blesses this food with us today. Christ is
here now, coming to all of us in the gifts of bread
and wine and other sacred food and drink which
God has provided. And Christ will come again to
make all things new. May we look for Christ in one
another and all those yet to be.
In Jesus' name, together let us pray.

All: with Linda Amen



The Prayer of Jesus

Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina

Let us join hearts together as part of God holding the world in love, and let us trust in prayer as we pray together:

(All to Join in on mute)

Our Amma/Abba God in heaven, holy be your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.

Edited, modern 'Our Father' provided by Trinity Lutheran Church

Reception for Spiritual Communion - *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Before we share in eating the food on our tables, I'd like to remind you that God invited you here today. Where-ever you are on your journey, God is with you.

Let us share together these words of celebration of God with the food God has provided:

ALL: Jesus, our hearts are Your Tabernacle. You live in us. You love in us. Come now, and visit us with Your grace. Make us to be more like You. May we receive Your fullness in this food as You desire. May we become Your Body in the world today. Amen

Please spend a moment now, receiving God's grace as you eat and drink what is on your table

Sacred Music *Bill Smith*

Prayer after the Meal *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Let us pray...

Love pours itself out in an offering that springs from the depths of who we are. Love makes it's way past the labels, breaks through the burdens of prejudice and stereotype and bias. The woman who anointed Jesus knows this. She knows how love calls us to recognize and respond to the holy in our midst. May we follow the example of this

holy woman, as we love and worship our brother Jesus with our entire being.
In Jesus' name we pray.

All: with Linda Amen

Blessing *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

The Love of God be with you. **All: with Linda And also with you.**
Let us open our hearts as we ask for God's blessing.

May God bless you to act justly, love mercy, walk humbly, and love extravagantly, in the name of our Mother/Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: with Linda Amen



Dismissal *Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina*

We are the Body of Christ. May we go forth to anoint this body with our gifts, as an expression of our love of God in Christ Jesus. **ALL:** with Linda **Thanks be to God**

Closing Song - *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

40 Days

Forty days to wander,
forty days to die to self.
Forty days to grow stronger
as faith breaks open the gates of hell.
The jubilee is over, but grace is far from gone
in the hearts of the faithful,
broken on the wheels of love.

Refrain

'Cause in the desert of temptation
lies the storm of true conversion,
where springs of living water
drown and refresh you.
And as the Jordan pours out change,

your true self is all that remains,
where springs of living water
bind and break you,
bind and break you.

2. Forty days to remember
the Paschal Sacrifice.
Forty days to discover
his passion calls us to new life.
The jubilee is over,
but mercy's far from gone
in the arms of the father
as the wayward child comes home.

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