



Mary of Magdala, ECC January 19, 2025

Second Sunday In Ordinary Time – “How Can We Show Up For Equality”

Fr. Michael Nicosia, Presiding

Welcome and Announcements *Linda Joyce, Lector*

Social Justice Reflection *Tom Moos, Social Justice Chair*

Opening Hymn: Here At This Table (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)

Greeting *Father Michael*

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

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

Introductory Rite

My siblings in Christ,

on this vigil of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, in the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we gather together as Church. Sadly, we live in a world that resists unity, a world that increasingly sees any sensitivity to the plight of others as a threat to one's own self-interests.

Seeing Dr. King's challenge, indeed the heart of the gospel's challenge, as so much woke-ness, we hear the refrain, “Let us return to normalcy.” Hopefully, by God's grace, our liturgy today can reinforce our woke-ness, our sensitivity, our interconnectedness as we celebrate the Sacrament that unites us.

Let us pray:

God of liberation, for the times we have failed to understand that none are free until all are free, have mercy on us. **All: Have mercy on us.**

God of solidarity, for the times we have been so self-absorbed that we have separated ourselves from others, have mercy on us. **All: Have mercy on us.**

God of the prophets, for the times we see injustice as the new normal and throw in the towel, have mercy on us. **All: Have mercy on us.**



May the God of challenge have mercy on us, ✠ forgive us our failings, and bring us to the life that is only abundant when all are included in the blessing. **All: Amen.**

In response to God's inclusive invitation, united we sing:

Glory to God: *(Mass of St Mary Magdalene)*

Opening Prayer

God of boundless blessing,
you revealed your glory and majesty to us through Jesus' acts of compassion and care. Help us to mirror that same inclusive love. This we ask through him, Jesus Christ, our brother, who in the unity of the Holy Spirit lives and works with you now and forever. **All: Amen.**

Let us joyfully listen to the Word of God, the Good News proclaimed in the midst of this Beloved Community.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Linda Joyce, Lector*

Song of Songs 4:12-5:1

A garden enclosed, my kinswoman, my bride, a garden enclosed, a fountain sealed!

Your branches are a grove of pomegranates, with fruits of choicest yield: henna with spikenard, spikenard and saffron, sweet cane and cinnamon, with all kinds of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all the finest spices.

A garden fountain, a well of living water, streams flowing from Lebanon. Awake, north wind! Come, south wind! Blow through my garden that its perfumes may spread abroad. Let my lover come to this garden and share its fruits of choicest yield.

I have come to the garden, my kinswoman, my bride. I gather my myrrh with my spices. I eat my honeycomb with my honey. I drink my wine with my milk. Eat, friends! Drink! Drink, Lovers! And be drunk with love!



The Word of an Ancient Poet. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial

Song Of Songs 4:8-11. *Linda Joyce, Lector*

Our response is: Your love is better than wine.

Response : Your love is better than wine.

(Come) with me from Lebanon, my bride! With me from Lebanon! Come!
Descend from the peak of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the
lairs of lions, from the leopards' heights. You have ravished my heart, my
kinswoman, my bride. **Response: Your love is better than wine.**

You have ravished my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one bead of your
necklace. How beautiful is your love, my kinswoman, my bride! How much better
is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfumes than any spice!

Response: Your love is better than wine.

Your lips drip honey, my bride. Honey and milk are under your tongue. The
fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon. **Response: Your
love is better than wine.**

Second Reading *Matt Chavez, Lector*

Our God Is Marching On, *from a speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. March 25, 1965 in
Montgomery, Alabama.*

My people, my people, listen. The battle is in our hands. The battle is in our
hands. . . all over the United States. I know there is a cry today. . . we see it in
numerous editorials: "When will Martin Luther King, [the Southern Christian
Leadership Conference], [the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee], and
all of these civil rights agitators and all of the white clergymen and labor leaders
and students and others get out of our community and let. . . [us] return to
normalcy?"



But I have a message that I would like to leave with [you]. . . this evening. That is exactly what we don't want, and we will not allow it to happen, for we know that it was normalcy in Marion that led to the brutal murder of Jimmy Lee Jackson. It was normalcy in Birmingham that led to the murder on Sunday morning of four beautiful, unoffending, innocent girls. It was normalcy on Highway 80 that led state troopers to use tear gas and horses and Billy clubs against unarmed human beings who were simply marching for justice. It was normalcy by a cafe in Selma, Alabama, that led to the brutal beating of Reverend James Reeb.

It is normalcy all over our country which leaves the Negro perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of [a] vast ocean of material prosperity. It is normalcy all over. . . that prevents the Negro from becoming a registered voter. No, we will not. . . return to normalcy.

The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that recognizes the dignity and worth of all of God's children. The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that allows judgment to run down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream. The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy of brotherhood, the normalcy of true peace, the normalcy of justice.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (*Mass of St Mary Magdalene*) (V3)

Gospel – *Father Michael*

May the love of God be with you. **All: And also with you.**

A Proclamation of the Gospel attributed to John (2:1-11a). **All: Glory to You, O God.**

A wedding took place at Cana of Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. And the wine ran out. So, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine." Responding, Jesus said, "Mother, what concern of that is ours? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the wedding servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now, standing there were six stone water jars, intended to hold water for ritual cleansing: each could hold twenty or



thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water,” and they filled them to the brim. Continuing, Jesus instructed, “Now draw some out and take it to the head steward of the feast.” They did so. When the head steward tasted the water it had turned into wine. Not knowing its source, (though the servants knew,) the head steward of the feast called to the bride and bridegroom and said, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests are well-wined, but you have saved the best wine for last.”

This was the first of Jesus’ signs.

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

Homily: “Intimate Connections” *by Fr. Michael J. Nicosia*

Creed: *Our Truth*

My siblings in Christ, in the bonds of our intimate connections with one another as Church, let us profess a symbol of our faith.

All: 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.

Prayers Of The People

Following the steps of the Cosmic Dance, we lift up the needs of the Church and the world.

Matt Chavez, Lector

Our response is "Loving God, receive our prayers." **All: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

For We the People that we continue to provide, develop, choose, and support governing leadership for a more perfect union of liberty and justice for All, we pray.

All: Loving God, receive our prayers.

For the health and well-being of our 301 Faith Partnership, our members, and families, we pray. **All: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

For our home planet, Mother Earth, that our actions show we love her, are united with her, and are willing to know her, we pray. **All: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

These are the prayers from the sanctuary....we pray, **All: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

Are there prayers from our zoom attendees? ... we pray, **All: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

And for all the people on our prayer lists, and the people we hold in our hearts, we pray, **All: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

Fr. Michael:

God of inclusive invitation, what is meant to be normal according to your



extravagant plan is often frustrated by our settling for less. In our being Church together and in our being siblings to all in our world, keep us from stepping on each other's toes, that all may dance to the tune of your love. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, this we ask and can do, in Jesus' name. **All: Amen.**

The Peace

Breathing in the scent of love that fills the whole cosmos, 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 to those joining us remotely, then extend that peace to those around you.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Of Our Tables

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink in our homes, we are reminded that our offerings of time, talent and treasure sustain the mission of God's Church.

Continue to give as you are called and able. Let us sing together.

Offertory Song: Many and One *(R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)*

Preparation Of The Gifts *(during offertory song)*

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. *(if prayer audible)* **All: Blessed is 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. Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. *(if prayer audible)* **All: Blessed is God forever.**

The Washing Of Hands



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

Prayer Over The Gifts

Source of every gift, your Son turned water into wine so that a couple's love would be celebrated in its fullness. Accept our humble gifts and transform them into Christ's body and blood, offered so that we might enjoy the fullness of life together.

In Jesus' name we pray. **All: Amen.**

Preface Of Cana's Wokeness Fr. Michael J. Nicosia © 2025

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

Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Ground of our unity.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, to thank you, God of overflowing blessing, and to praise you through Jesus your Christ.

At Creation's dawning as Holy Wisdom he danced to the tune of love—a love that united all that is to all that is you. At the climax of your song he entered the dance more intimately through flesh and blood, and learned new steps from a mother most perceptive. Spurred to act by her wokeness, he made a couple's joy even more complete.

In wokeness he lived, in wokeness he challenged; and out of a sense of kinship toward all he willing put the self aside that all might live. Honoring his offering you raised him up and in so doing raised up all of his kin—yes, all spirit and matter and flesh and blood—into the dance of love that you promise never ends.



Caught up in the celebration we join heaven and earth in the song of your glory:

Holy: *(Mass of St Mary Magdalene)*

We commit ourselves to the community of faith in which this song resonates, calling upon You, most merciful God, to send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon the offerings we have set before You.

Bless ✕ these gifts that they may become for us the body and blood of your Anointed One —indeed, the bread of life and the cup of sacrifice that makes our unity possible.

On the night before he suffered 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation: *(Mass of St Mary Magdalene)*

In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Holy One, this life-giving bread, this saving cup. We thank you for counting us worthy to be your dance partners.

May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit. While we ask you to remember all our siblings 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 have heard and follow the calling handed down to us from the Apostles. Bless especially our 301 Faith Partners for our unity is a sign of your love's incarnation. Together with our local bishops, Kae, Kym and Meghan, continue to empower all your gifted people for the special ministry given to the Body of Christ. Remember, all those who have died ... Welcome them into your glorious presence with Mary, our Mother, our patron Mary of Magdala,
the couple at Cana, and all those who now enjoy the fullness of your promises in heaven.

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 God, forever and ever.

Amen: *(Mass of St Mary of Magdalene)*

The Prayer Of Jesus

Let us pray 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.

Lamb Of God: *(Mass of St Mary Magdalene)*

Breaking Of The Bread

May this mingling of the body and blood of Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it. You who calls each of us beloved, 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.

Invitation To The Table

This table is the source and substance of our kinship with Christ and one another.

In truth, all are invited to the dance!

All: For in this we are a Eucharistic People, the Body of Christ incarnate, the Blood of Christ poured out for the life of the world.

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.**

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

Communion Song: *Taste and See (R; V1; R; V2; R)*

Prayer After Communion

Good God, we thank you for your life-giving Word and for our communion with your Son. Make us one of heart and soul by your Spirit, and lead us, in the strength of this food, of the marriage banquet of eternal life through Christ, through whom your promises are fulfilled, now and always. **All: Amen.**

Blessing 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.

Concluding Rite

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

May God bless you: the Source of All-being, ✠ the Eternal Word and the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

Dismissal

As our liturgy concludes, the dance continues. Go, therefore, to love and serve God and one another. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song: *Peace is Flowing Like A River (V1; V2; V3; V4; V5)*