Mary of Magdala ECC November 8, 2026
The 32 Sunday in Ordinary Time
Presider: Mother Alice Bradley

Welcome and Announcements *Lector Artie Bavoso*
Synod Report *David Cloyd*

Entrance Song Come To Our God. (V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)

Greeting

In the name of our Creator, of Jesus our brother, and of Sophia Spirit, whose breath awakens wisdom, compassion, and peace. **All: Amen.**

The grace of our Loving God, the peace of Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

Introduction

Welcome, everyone, to our celebration of God's generous and abiding love. It is a blessing to gather with you today around Christ's table.In today's Scriptures, we encounter divine Wisdom, who searches for us, meets us along the way, and waits patiently at our door. Jesus reminds us that authentic faith is revealed not through status or authority, but through humble service and compassionate love. As we gather around this table, may we open our minds to Wisdom, our hearts to one another, and our hands to the work of lifting burdens and making room for all. **All: Amen.**

Penitential Act

As we enter more deeply into this celebration, let us become aware of the loving presence of God, and acknowledge those moments when we have closed our hearts, failed to listen, or overlooked the burdens others carry.

(Pause)

Loving God, when we are too certain of our own understanding to recognize your Wisdom in others, open our minds and hearts. God, have mercy.

All: God, have mercy

Jesus, our brother, when we judge others before listening to their stories, teach us humility and compassion. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love, when we hesitate to reach out to those who struggle, awaken in us the courage to respond. Sophia Spirit, have mercy. **All: Spirit have mercy.**

May our ever-loving God embrace us in mercy, free us from all that separates us from love, and lead us into the fullness of life. **All: Amen.**

Let us celebrate God's glory with our voices as together we sing:

Gloria (MOJH)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray. God of Wisdom and Compassion, you seek us before we know to seek you, and meet us along the pathways of our lives. Open our minds to your Wisdom, our hearts to the stories of those we encounter, and our hands to the work of compassionate love. Free us from the need to have all the answers. Teach us to listen with humility, to welcome without judgment, and to serve without seeking recognition. May our lives become open doors through which others discover the generosity of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our brother and companion on the way. **All: Amen.**

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

As we listen to the Scriptures today, let us remember that divine Wisdom is not distant or hidden from us. She searches for those who are open to Her, meeting us in unexpected places and through unexpected people. May these sacred words awaken in us a deeper attentiveness to God's presence and a greater willingness to respond with love.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Wisdom 6:12–16 *Lector Artie Bavoso*

Wisdom is brilliant. She never fades.
She is readily perceived by those who love Her.
By those who seek Her, She is found.

She anticipates those who desire Her by making Herself known first.
The one who rises early to seek Her will not be disappointed.
She will be found waiting at the door.
To fix one's thoughts on Her is to invite full understanding.
One who keeps vigil on Her account will soon be free from care.
She Herself searches everywhere for those who are open to Her,
graciously appearing to them on their ways, meeting them in every thought.
The Word of a Wisdom Writer. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm My Soul Is Thirsting. (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3 R)

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:6, 9–12 *Lector Vicki Johnson*
Just now, Timothy has returned to us from you, bringing us the good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us and long to see us as we long to see you!
What thanksgiving, then, can we render to God for you, for all the joy we feel on your account before our God? Night and day, we pray beyond measure to see you in person, to supply whatever your faith is wanting.
May God, our Loving Creator, and Jesus the Christ, clear the way for us to come to you. And may God make your love increase and abound for one another and for all, just as ours does for you.
Listen to the Spirit speaking to God's people. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia (MOJH)

Gospel *Mth. Alice*

Our Loving God is within you. **All: And also within you.**

A Proclamation of the Gospel attributed to Matthew 23:1-12

All: Glory to you O God.

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: “The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ chair. Therefore, hear whatever they teach you, and practice it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lace them up on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift so much as a finger to help others with their load.

They do all their deeds to draw attention to themselves: they widen the bands bound to their hands and foreheads, and they lengthen the tassels on their hems. They love to have the places of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues. They love greetings of honor in the marketplaces. And they love to have people call them “Rabbi”. If you are my disciple, do not call yourself “Rabbi”, for you have but one teacher, and you are all equally sisters, brothers, siblings. Call no one on earth your “Mother” or “Father”; for you have only one Mother, one Father—our God in heaven.

Nor shall my disciples call themselves by authoritative names, for you have one authority, the Messiah. Rather, the greatest among you shall be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

The Good news of Jesus our Christ. **All; Praise to you, Jesus our Christ.**

Homily *Mth. Alice*

Prayers of the People

Mth.Alice: Trusting in the God whose Wisdom seeks us and whose love embraces all creation, let us bring before God the needs of our world, our communities, and all those who carry heavy burdens.

Lector Vicki Johnson **Our response is: Loving God, open our hearts.**

For the Church: That our churches may become places of genuine welcome, where all people are received with dignity, where no one is made to feel unworthy, and where spiritual leadership is expressed through humility and service. We pray to God. **All: Loving God, open our hearts.**

For Those Who Carry Heavy Burdens: For all who struggle with poverty, homelessness, illness, loneliness, grief, or fear. May they encounter compassionate people who listen without judgment, honor their dignity,

and offer meaningful support. We pray to God. **All: Loving God, open our hearts.**

For Leaders and Those Entrusted with Authority: That leaders in our churches, communities, and nations may listen attentively to those they serve, seek wisdom beyond their own understanding, and use their authority to lighten burdens rather than impose them. We pray to God. **All: Loving God, open our hearts.**

For Our Own Community: That we may cultivate open minds, attentive hearts, and willing hands. May we recognize divine Wisdom in those we encounter and have the humility to ask what help is truly needed before assuming we know. We pray to God. **All: Loving God, open our hearts.**

For Those Whose Voices Are Often Unheard: For all who have been excluded, dismissed, or silenced because of their identity, circumstances, or beliefs. May we listen to their stories, honor their wisdom, and work alongside them to build communities of justice, belonging, and peace. We pray to God. **All: Loving God, open our hearts.**

The prayers from the sanctuary are....

……..we pray to God, **All: Loving God, open our hearts.**



Are there prayers from our members on zoom? ….

……..we pray to God, **All: Loving God, open our hearts.**

For all on our prayer list and the prayers we hold sacred in our hearts, let us pause to call them mind, (wait about 10 seconds) we pray, **Response: Loving God, open our hearts.**

Mth. Alice: God of boundless compassion, you know the needs we have spoken and those we carry silently in our hearts. Deepen our capacity to listen, strengthen our willingness to serve, and make us instruments of your healing love. May we become the answer to one another's prayers through Christ, our brother. **All: Amen.**

The Peace

Jesus reminds us that we are all equally beloved members of God's family. The peace of Christ is not simply the absence of conflict, but the presence of compassion, understanding, and mutual respect. As we share a sign of peace, may we recognize in one another the divine Wisdom that seeks to meet us. Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace. The Peace of Christ be with you always. **All: And also with you.**

Please turn to the camera and offer a sign of peace to our members on zoom before offering peace to our members in the sanctuary.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Mth Alice 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.

Offertory Song Open My Eyes (V1; V2; V3; B; V4)

Preparation of the Gifts *(say during Offertory Song)*
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 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.

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.



Prayer Over the Gifts

God of generous love, receive these gifts of bread and wine and the offering of our lives. As we share this sacred meal, transform our hearts through your Wisdom. May the love we celebrate at this table become the compassion we practice in the world. May our listening become understanding, our understanding become love, and our love become action through Christ, our brother. **All: Amen.**

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.**

It is truly right and good to give you thanks and praise, God of Wisdom and boundless love. Before we seek you, you are already seeking us. You meet us along the pathways of our lives, in moments of wonder and uncertainty, in the voices of those we love, and in the stories of those we have yet to understand.

Through Jesus, you reveal a love that does not seek power or privilege, but kneels to serve, reaches out to heal, and welcomes all to the table. You call

us to become a people whose minds remain open, whose hearts are attentive, and whose hands are ready to lift the burdens of others. And so, with all creation, with those who have gone before us, and with all who seek your Wisdom, we join in the everlasting song of praise:

Holy (MOJH)

Please join us in raising your hands over the gifts*:*

Send your Spirit upon these gifts and upon us, your people, that this bread and wine may become the Body and Blood of Christ, ✠ and that we may become one body, one spirit in your love.

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 *pick up the 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 (MOJH)

God of Love and Peace, 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 this love 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 **(MOJH)**

The Prayer of Jesus

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

Lamb of God (MOJH)

Fractioning Rite

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 power and vulnerability, of community and individuality, of pain and 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. Coming to this table, Christ calls us to a deeper kinship than we can imagine. This is the table of grace, the table of welcome, the table of communion. Here, and at home, we remember that we are beloved participants in the life of divine love.

Communion Song Bread For the World (R;V1; V2; R; V3; R)

Prayer after Communion

God of Wisdom and Love, you have nourished us at this table and reminded us that we are one in your embrace.

May the communion we have shared deepen our communion with one another. Give us the humility to listen, the courage to be changed, and the generosity to respond to the needs of those we encounter. May we carry your love into the world with open minds, attentive hearts, and willing hands. Through Christ, our brother. **All: Amen.**

Blessing

Please open your hearts for a final blessing- responding to each with a big AMEN…

May the God of Wisdom, who seeks us and meets us along the way, keep our minds open to truth and our hearts receptive to love. May Jesus, our brother and teacher, give us the humility to listen, the compassion to understand, and the courage to lift one another's burdens. **All: Amen.**

And may the Holy Spirit guide our hands in service, our feet along the paths of justice, and our lives in the ways of peace. **All: Amen.**

And, may the blessing of our loving God, + Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, remain with us and with all those whose lives we touch, now and always. **All: Amen.**

Go forth in the peace and love of Christ with open minds, attentive hearts, and willing hands. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song **With One Voice (V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)**