



Mary of Magdala, ECC— August 23, 2026

Celebrating 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time — All Together

Everywhere

Presider: *Reverend Jane Reina*

Deacon: *Dori Healy assisting*

Homilist: *Deacon Dori Healy*

Eucharistic Ministers: *David and Cindy Cloyd*

Welcome and Announcements *Lector, Cindy Cloyd*

Social Justice Reflection *Tom Moos*

Entrance Song *At the Name (V1; R; V2; R)*

Greeting *Rev. Jane Reina*

Welcome to the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Jesus asks the most subjective question: Who Do You Say That I AM?

Again, I invite everyone here and at home to sit, 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.

Let us open ourselves to today's scripture, a question that for us *today* can have as many answers as there are each of us.

+ 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 have denied that you are the
Ultimate Unfolding Process within us.

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

We turn back to you, O Christ, when we recall that we have forgotten that
You are our consciousness shining throughout all creation.

**All: We thank you, O Christ, for calling us to see creation beneath
appearances.**

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 bringing your presence into our
material reality.**

Gloria *Glory To God (Mass of St. Mary Magdalene)*

Opening Prayer

God, the blessed Holy Three, is within you.



All: And also within you.

Let us pray: As we gather here today, may we hear as the Spirit guides us to hear. May we be aware of those whose needs are great at this moment and reach out in person as well as in mind and heart. May we draw strength from each other knowing the embodiment of endless love at the tables of God here and online.

ALL: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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



First Reading Isaiah 22: 15-16, 19-23 *Lector, Cindy Cloyd*

Thus says the God of the Multitudes to the unjust official, the manager of the palace: “What have you here? Who are you that you have hewn for yourself a tomb on high, as a shrine, carving a resting place in rock? I will thrust you from your office and pull you will down from your post. On that day, I will call on my servant, Eliakim, of the clan of Hilkiah, whom I will clothe with your robe and bind with your sash. I will commit your authority into the hand of this my servant who will mother the inhabitants of Jerusalem, father the house of Judah. I will place the key to the house of David and Bathsheba on the shoulder of my servant, Eliakim. What my servant opens, no one will shut. What my servant closes, no one will open. I will fasten my servant firmly in place like a peg, like a wooden nail, so that my servant will have a seat of honor and an ancestral house.

All: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm 138 *Lector, David Cloyd*

(adapted from Nan Merrill and NABRE)

Our response is: Your Love endures forever.

I give You thanks, O Blessed One, with all my heart.

With cosmic witness, and a multitude of angels,

I will sing songs to You.

I was humbled when I realized that You dwell in me, in the
Sacred Chapel of all souls.

Response: Your Love endures forever.

My gratitude knows no bounds!

You are the Holy One, Life of our life.

On the day that I called, You answered.

With You, my breath is strong, my spirit soars.

Response: Your Love endures forever.

All the leaders of the earth will one day praise You
when Your spirit awakens their hearts.

They will sing of Your ways,

"Great is Love's glory."



For even as You are the Source of All,
You are Friend to the humble.

Response: Your Love endures forever.

Though I walk amid trouble, You give Life.
When wars rage, You stretch out Your hand.
Your presence upholds me.
You remain with me till the end.
Your love, O God, endures forever,
never forsaking the work of Your hands.

Response: Your Love endures forever.

Second Reading Romans 11: 33-12:2 *Lector, David Cloyd*

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are Your judgements! How unfathomable
Your ways!

*“For what human being has ever known the mind of God?
What human being has ever been God’s advisor?
Who has ever given a gift to God, expecting the same in
return?”*



For from God and through God and for God is all that is.
God be glory forever. So, therefore, beloved, instead of
giving *things* to God, present your very selves to God as a
living sacrifice. You, your life, is holy and pleasing to God.
Living for God is your spiritual worship. So, do not model
yourselves after the pattern of this age. Rather be transformed
by the renewal of your hearts and minds, so that you may
discern the desire of God's heart; what is good and pleasing
and true.

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia (Mass of St MM)(included verse)*

Gospel - *Deacon Dori*

Our Loving God is within you.

All: And also within you.

A proclamation of the Gospel according to Matthew (16:13-26)

All: Glory to you, O God.



When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Chosen One is?”

They responded, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Jesus asked, “But you, who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the One from the Living God.” Jesus replied, “Simon, son of Jonah, blessed are you! Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Loving God of the heavens. So I say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my community. The gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the reign of heaven, the everlasting kingdom. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound always, in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed always, in heaven.” Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: Praise to you Jesus our Christ.

Please be seated.

Homily: *Deacon Dori Healy*

Creed



Deacon Dori to lead the community:

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, David Cloyd*

Lector: It always feels right to me that the lector should introduce with a prayer. The lector's praying is as good as mine, maybe better. 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 all people, that they may remember acts of kindness, even the smallest acts of kindness, done with love in Jesus' name, throughout each of our days, can make a difference,
we pray, **Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

Asking for an end to brutality, the reduction of human cruelty, and the planting of peaceful, loving hearts in a broken world,
we pray, **Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

Please remind us not to minimize our own gifts, but to present them for the betterment of our Christian community,
we pray, **Response: Loving God, receive our prayers.**

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

The prayers from our members on zoom? (Chad 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.



Deacon Dori: 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 the nonviolent Jesus.

All: Amen

The Peace

Deacon Dori, 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

Deacon Dori: 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.

Deacon Dori: Let us sing together. . .

Offertory Song *Christ in Me Arise (R; V1; R; V2; Final 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

Deacon Dori:

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.

Rev. Jane: Blessed are you, compassionate and faithful God—to you we offer thanks and praise everywhere and always. All that exists has its origin in the Mystery that is 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 the life and beauty of creation.

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

Holy (*Mass of St MM*)

Flowing 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, 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.

Deacon Dori: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Memorial Acclamation (*Mass of St MM*)

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 passing world, and conform us to the abundant pattern of Christ.

Remember, O Holy Mystery, all those who have died. *Pause to recollect 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.

The Great Amen *Mass of St MM*

The Prayer of Jesus

Deacon Dori: 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, place the wine on the stands.

Instrumental music while the Eucharistic ministers break the bread

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



Deacon Dori: 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.

Deacon Dori: This sacred meal is offered for all of us to share, without exception. Come to this table, or your table at home, free of guilt, shame or fear since it is Christ who calls. Come to the table to receive the Christ of peace and love.

Communion Song *Amazing Grace (V1; V2; R; V3; R)*

Prayer after Communion

Deacon Dori: If you are able, please stand. Let us pray,

Rev. Jane: 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 shines through us within our world. Nudge



us to share our gifts with all of life: to serve this Earth planet and all that populates it, helping to heal and reconcile all of us back into unity. We humbly accept you as the gift that nourishes us on our journey.

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 to be led by the Holy Spirit in the truth and in compassion of Jesus.

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

All: Amen

Deacon Dori: Let us go out following The Way.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song *Bless The Lord (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)*