Mary of Magdala ECC - November 23, 2025
Celebrating – The Feast of Christ the Servant
Serving Well Mother Alice Bradley (Church of the Beloved), Presider

Welcome and Announcements *Matt Chavez, lector*
Social Justice Reflection

Opening Song *At The Name (V1, R; V 2, R)*

Greeting and Welcome

Good afternoon! Welcome everyone at home and here to today's celebration of the Word and Eucharist on the Feast of Christ the Servant. I'm Mother Alice Bradley from Church of the Beloved in Northglenn, Colorado, and I'm glad and honored to be here with you to celebrate together.

Today, let us delve deep, to unearth what it means to be a servant in the way Jesus invites us to do in this time and this place. Let us ponder and listen and learn what it means to serve well, to serve as Jesus served. I know that serving well is something this community does remarkably well, so I come before you humbly, not to introduce the idea of "Serving Well," - you already do that. But, as lovers of Jesus and followers of his Way, we are always seeking to dig deeper and to draw from the well of God's living waters to refresh and revive, to renew and restore and to shower us with grace as we serve along the Way of Jesus together. I pray that Sophia Spirit may teach and inspire us as we each dig deeper to serve well+ in the name of Our Source, Our Way and Our Holy Wisdom. **All: Amen**

Penitential Rite With humility and faith let us pray:

All: We turn back to you, O Christ, knowing you await us with your open arms each moment. Bless us with an *experience* of you and your acceptance beyond understanding, so that we may be free to forgive ourselves and others, all in your Love.

Mthr Alice: Christ, you forgive us as we seek you. With you, there are no hierarchical distinctions, no racial differences, no gender disparities, no political parties. Help us to accept forgiveness. Restore us to wholeness as we seek always closer union with You, with others and with our own selves.
All: Christ, help us to seek and accept forgiveness.

Mthr Alice: Christ, you are the unifying Spark of Life within all life. Help us to see beyond our individuality to experience our unity within You.
All: Christ, help us to seek and accept forgiveness.

Mthr Alice: Christ, you show us the Way to Peace. When we recognize injustice around us, help us to freely respond with less fear and greater trust.
All: Christ, help us to seek and accept forgiveness.

May the Christ the Servant bring us healing and forgivness and lead us along The Way of Service. **All: Amen**

Let us raise our voices and praise our God.

Glory To God Mass of A Joyful Heart

Opening prayer *extend hands*

God, the blessed Holy Trinity, is with you. **All: And also with you.**

We seek you, O Holy Mother God. We sit in confusion and chaos until we see that what we long for, what was instilled in us from earliest times, propels us to answer your commandment to Love. Open our hearts to seek you and find you, O Servant Heart of All that is Good. (Let us be seated as we listen to the Message of God speaking to us.)

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING **Isaiah** 53: 1, 3ab, 4, 6a, 7-9, 11-12a

Matt Chavez, lector

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Who would believe what we have heard?
To whom has divine strength been revealed?
It was to the Servant who was despised, rejected by others,
one of sorrows, one familiar with suffering.
Truly this Servant has shared our affliction, and our pain.
We thought you were being punished, struck down by God and brought low...
All of us, like sheep, have gone astray from you.
Each of us, we have turned our own way.
Though treated harshly, you bore it humbly. You never opened your mouth.
Like a lamb being led to the slaughter,
or a sheep before shearers, you were silent.
By perversion of justice, you were taken away.
Who would ever have foreseen your destiny?

You were taken from the land of the living,
stricken in the name of peace.
You were buried with those who had committed egregious crimes,
though you had done no violence, and there was in you no deceit.
Out of your anguish, you will see joy and light.
Knowledge of you, O Righteous One, will turn many to justice.
Because you served all and allowed yourself to be counted
with the least among us, you are among the great.
The Word of an Isaian prophet. **All: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 62:6-13a *Matt Chavez, lector*

Our Psalm Response is: We pour out our hearts to God.

All: We pour out our hearts to God.

My Soul, be at rest in God alone, from Whom comes my hope.
You, O Love, alone are my source, my liberation, and my shelter.
I shall never fall.

All: We pour out our hearts to God.

Love is my strength and my refuge. In You alone is freedom and honor.
Trust in Love at all times, O People!
Pour out your hearts to Love who is our sanctuary.

All: We pour out our hearts to God.

Humans are but a breath, the powerful, but an illusion.
Set both on the scales together, they are lighter than a breath.
Put no trust in extortion, as do many powerful rulers.

Put no empty hope in robbery as do authorities who steal from the poor.
Do not set your heart on wealth that increases.

All: We pour out our hearts to God.

One thing God has said, two things I have heard:
"Strength belongs to God," "You are Unfailing Love, O God."
R: We pour out our hearts to God.

SECOND READING: **Romans 15:1-9a, 10, 12-13** *Linda Joyce, lector*

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

We who are mature in faith ought to understand and be patient with the stumbling of those with a fledgling faith. Each of us should bring joy to our neighbors for their good, to build them up. Jesus did not live for personal satisfaction but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For everything in the Scriptures is written for our instruction. With endurance, and Scriptural encouragement, we have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live with one another in harmony, in the spirit of Christ Jesus, that you might glorify God with one voice.
Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ Jesus has welcomed you. Do this for the glory of God. Jesus became a servant to his own, the Judean people, so as to confirm the truth of God's promises given to their ancestors. Jesus also became a

servant to the Gentiles, so that all might glorify God; for God
loves all. Scripture reminds us that God has always welcomed
all: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with God's people”;
and again, Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will sprout;
A child will rise up and call forth all peoples.
That one will come; and in this Expected One the Gentiles shall hope.”
May the God of hope fill you to overflowing with joy, fill you to over- flowing with peace, so that your belief lives! Filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, brim over with hope!
The Word of the Apostle Paul. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia (Mass of A Joyful Heart)

Gospel **Luke 22:14-30** Mother Alice
Our God is with you. **All: And also with you.**
A reading from the Gospel attributed to Luke **All: Glory to you, O God.**

When the hour came, Jesus and the apostles reclined
at the table. Jesus said to them, “I have eagerly desired to
eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I will not eat it
again until there is fulfillment in the kin-dom of God.”
Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, said,
“Take this and share it with one another. From this
moment, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until God’s reign comes.”
Then Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, broke
it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for
you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, with the cup, after supper, Jesus said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you. But see, the hand of the one who is going to betray me is at this table with me. The Chosen One will go as it has been determined, but woe to the person by whom the Chosen One will be betrayed!” They began to ask one another which of them it might be who would do this.

Then an argument broke out among them about which of them would be regarded as the greatest. Jesus said to them, “Earthly rulers lord it over their people, and those who exercise authority are addressed as “Benefactors”. But this must not happen with you.

No, the greatest among you should be like the least, and the leader like the one who serves. For who is the greater: the one who reclines at table or the one who serves? Surely it is the one reclining at the table! But I am here among you as one who serves. You are among those who have stood by me in my trials. I confer on you, just as my God conferred on me, a kin-dom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kin-dom.”

The Good News of Jesus, our Christ.

All: Praise to you, Jesus, our Christ.

Homily: **Mother Alice**

Creed for the Feast of Christ the Servant

Source: Mother Alice (aided by Chat GPT)

We believe in God, Source of all life, whose heart bends toward the lowly
and whose glory is revealed in mercy.
God, who kneels to wash the dust from our feet, makes a home among the outcast,
and chooses compassion as the measure of greatness.
We believe in Jesus, the Servant-Christ, who emptied himself of privilege
and walked among the poor, the forgotten, and the wounded.
He touched the unclean, restored the broken, and proclaimed a Reign
where the first are last and the last are cherished first.
In his death on the cross we see Christ's servant-heart of love;
in his rising we see that love cannot be silenced.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, moving quietly through human kindness,
disturbing our comfort, and drawing us toward those who suffer.
The Spirit opens our eyes to injustice, our hands to work,
and turns our hearts toward reconciliation and unity.

We believe in the Church, a community called not to power but to service,
not to judgment but to hospitality, not to triumph but to tenderness.
We are the Body of Christ the Servant, sent to wash feet, mend wounds,
lift burdens, and bear good news to the forgotten corners of the world.

We believe that God's Reign is already stirring—in every act of courage,
in every gesture of welcome, in every choice to stand with the suffering.
Until that Reign comes in fullness, we commit ourselves to the way of Christ the Servant: to seek the lost, comfort the sorrowing, and love without counting the cost. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Mother Alice: Let us open our hearts in prayer to our God, who bends down to hear us when we call. Lector Linda Joyce

Our response to the prayers is: Christ the Servant, hear our prayer.
All: Christ the Servant, hear our prayer.

For the Church…That we who follow Christ may learn his posture of humble service—kneeling beside the wounded, welcoming the excluded,
and seeking greatness only in acts of service and love,
we pray… **All: Christ the Servant, hear our prayer**.

For the Outcast and Overlooked…For all who feel unseen or forgotten—
those living in poverty, the undocumented, the unhoused,
the isolated elderly, the addicted, and all carrying hidden pain—
that they may encounter dignity, compassion, and hope,
we pray… **All: Christ the Servant, hear our prayer**."

For Courage to Do Justice…That the Holy Spirit may unsettle our comfort,
steady our resolve to confront injustice, and inspire us to stand with all who suffer
discrimination, violence, or any form of oppression,
we pray… **All: Christ the Servant, hear our prayer**.

For Servant Hearts Within Our Community…For our families, parish, and
ministries—that tenderness, attentiveness, and readiness to help
may mark our lives, revealing the gentle power of God's love,
we pray… **All: Christ the Servant, hear our prayer**.

For the Sick, the Weary, and All Who Carry Burdens…For those in hospitals or
hospice, those living with chronic pain, mental anguish, or despair—that the
healing presence of Christ the Servant
may bring comfort, strength, and peace,
we pray… **All: Christ the Servant, hear our prayer.**

For the prayers from the sanctuary are…,
we pray: **Christ the Servant…**

Are there prayers from our members on Zoom? **Christ the Servant…**

Mother Alice: Loving God, your Son Jesus showed us that true greatness is found in humble service and that your glory shines most brightly among the poor, the wounded, and the forgotten. Hear the prayers we have spoken aloud and the needs we hold in the quiet of our hearts.
Form us into a people after the heart of Christ the Servant—
courageous in justice, generous in compassion, and steadfast in love.
We ask this through Christ, the Servant. **All: Amen.**

The Sign of Peace

Jesus our Christ, you said to your followers: "I leave you my peace, my peace I give you." The Peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please turn toward the camera to offer a sign of Christ's Peace and then toward each other here as we celebrate Divine Love as Peace.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Mother Alice: As we prepare our table with food and drink at home and here, 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. Please be seated as we sing together:

Procession with Gifts
Offertory Song - The Servant Song (V1, V2, V3, V4, V5)

After the table is set. Preparation of the gifts
(said silently 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. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

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.

All: Blessed be God forever.

By the mystery of this water and wine +, may we share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Creator God, we ask you to receive us and to be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.

Mother Alice washing hands
O God, wash away my inquity and ambivalence. Cleanse me from my sin.

Mother Alice: With arms raised Pray, my beloved siblings, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God.

All: May God accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all creation.

Hands extended
Prayer over the Gifts

Mother Alice: Jesus, you invite us to share this table with you. Calling us, you fill us to overflowing again and again. By the grace at this table, may we learn to be servants with you.

Grant us, O Christ, what these gifts of bread and wine signify:

that our lives pour out as your life self-empties into us,

until finally we are filled only with you. All: Amen

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Christ is with you. **All: And also with you.**

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

P. Let us give thanks to God. **All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, for you created us and all worlds. We and all creation live and expand because of you. Your incarnation shows us your desire for us.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain, have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as fulfillment.

And grateful as we are for the world we know, and the universe beyond our understanding, we particularly praise you for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For the life of Jesus informs our living --
his complassion which contradicts our prejudices and generalities,
his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering,
his fearless dying, his rising to life-breathing compassion and forgiveness --
so we praise you, eternal God and worship the Christ.
And so we joyfully join our voices with the song of the entire Cosmos:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Mass of A Joyful Heart)
Extend arms

Flowing from the Love visible to and invisible in all creation, send your Holy

Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. **Bless them + and make**

them holy that they may become the living sign of Christ's enduring Love.

Here too our gratitude rises, for the promise of the Holy Spirit who attracts us to

you and fills us with your teachings.

Together, we, the Body of Christ, gathered in all locations, remember what Jesus

did at table and in life.

Who, on the night before he was betrayed, and among friends gathered round a

table, 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.

Mother Alice 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 you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Mother Alice Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Memorial Acclamation When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O God, until You come Again... (Mass of A Joyful Heart)

Mother Alice: Extend arms Loving Divinity, Compassionate Mystery, we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus our Christ, and all that Christ continues to do. Together with all your servants, people of every faith, may we become what you long for us to be: your anointed ones, co-healers of our world .
Remember, O Loving God, all those who have died.
May we praise you in unison with them, giving glory to God.

Setting our wisdom, our own wills, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn to be one in the Love Christ offers us, and

to do the work Christ asks of us.

Continue to guide us as one Body of Christ, serving our creation and proclaiming your Word through our actions. May your Holy Spirit rest in us, converting us from the pattern of this passing world and conforming us to the pattern of Christ whose divinity we share.

Mother Alice: Together now we say,

All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all blessings and thanksgiving are yours, O Loving God, forever and ever.

The Great Amen (Mass of A Joyful Heart)

Prayer of Jesus

Mother Alice Please turn to the camera so that we can join together together, in praying the words Jesus our Christ 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

Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God (Mass of A Joyful Heart)

Raise bread and wine

All: This is the living God, the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the one who transforms us and our world. Happy are we who are called to this supper.

All: Jesus, I am ready to receive you, and by your invitation I am here.

Jesus our Christ, with faith in your love and compassion, we are nourished by your sacred Body and Blood. May it bring us health in mind and body.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Mother Alice: As we share in this nourishment set before us, 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 food of and from God is here for all of us, without exception. You belong at this Feast of Life because you are of God. Come, everyone, share this banquet event of life!

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

O Sacred Source our loving Creator, we give you thanks for the gift of the Eucharistic. Empower us as we go about our daily lives as we go out in service today. We pray that the world will know by our love that we are your people and you are their God.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Christ. **All: Amen**

And now we will join in our blessing for Dori and for Jim. Please extend your hands in blessing.

Blessing of Dori Healy and Jim Berry

All: Gracious and Loving God, we raise our hands and hearts to bless Dori and Jim as they continue the journey of discernment toward ordained ministry with Mary of Magdala. Enliven them with clarity of vision and insight, and guide them to willingly accept what unfolds for them. May our blessing help sustain their journey in Christ. May it be so.

Concluding Rite and Dismissal Blessings

Mother Alice: Let us open our hearts to God's blessing:

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

Bless us, O Nameless One of All Creation, that we continue in the Way of Jesus our Christ within the context of the 21st Century.

May our loving God bless us all in the name of Amma/Abba God, Jesus our Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia. **All: Amen**

DISMISSAL

Mother Alice: Go in PEACE, to Serve Well.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song May Your Kingdom Come (V1, R; V2, R; V3,53: 1, 3ab, 4, 6a, 7-9, R)