Mary of Magdala, ECC—March 22, 2026

Celebrating the 5th Sunday of Lent —All Together Everywhere

Traveling with Jesus—Where will your journey take you together with Jesus?

Presider: Reverend Jane Reina

Homilist: Jared Orsi, Member and Professor of History, CSU

Welcome and Announcements *Lector David Cloyd*

Social Justice Reflection *Tom Moos*

Entrance Song **At The Name (V1; R; V2; R; B; R)**

Greeting *Rev. Jane Reina*

Welcome to the 5th Sunday of Lent. On the 1st Sunday, we were encouraged to focus on Jesus's journey and to strengthen our interior Light. We were encouraged to take the time to integrate the trials of our time, trying to accept the vulnerability of ambiguity.

Today, we see Jesus in relationship: with his disciples, his enemies, his family of believers and those coming-to-believe. In all these relationships he is awake to the danger yet fearless, compassionate, and always non-violent in his radically non-imperial message of

love. John the Evangelist writes that Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that you might have life and have it to the full.” 10:10.

Please feel free to sit or stand as together, here and at home, we take a deep breath and relax. Notice how you are feeling today, and enter into the presence of our nonviolent God who loves us infinitely and unconditionally. Welcoming peace into our hearts we pray:

+ In the name of the All-Compassionate Creative Mystery we name God, Jesus—our Christ, and the Holy Spirit—Sophia. **All: Amen**

Penitential Rite

In humble gratitude for God’s expansive, never-ending 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 in our own hearts.

We turn back to you, Jesus our Christ, when we remember that you said “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

All: We thank you, Jesus our Christ, for life.



We turn back to you, O God, when we remember that we are among the Chosen Ones to be your Light and Love in the world.

All: We thank you, O God, for your extravagant love.

We turn back to you, Holy Spirit, when we realize that among all the competing gods in our society, you give us your Wisdom commandment, "Love God and one another as ourselves."

All: We thank you, Holy Spirit, for your Wisdom Way.

Opening Prayer

God, the blessed Holy Three, is within you. **All: And also within you**.

Let us pray:

Jesus of Nazareth, as you journey toward Jerusalem, help us to continue this Lenten journey with you, going both into ourselves and out of ourselves. Jesus, help us to increase our sense of community with our world, giving more of ourselves as you have gifted us. And Jesus, help us to wrestle with our own darkness as we try to integrate your message to open our hearts to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

God of Peace, God of Love, breathe peace into our hearts and fill us with your light.

ALL: **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated as we listen to the inspired Word of God speaking to us.

First Reading *Lector David Cloyd*

A Reading from the prophet, Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of God was upon me, and I was carried away by the Spirit, and set down in a valley full of bones. God led me up and down and all around them. There were very many bones lying in the valley, and they were very dry. God asked me, "Human One, can these bones live?" I answered, "You alone know that." Then God said to me, "Prophesy to these bones! Say to them, 'Dry bones, hear God's word!'" God said this to the bones, "I am now going to make breath enter you, and you shall live. I will put sinews upon you and will make flesh grow on you. I will cover you with skin and put breath in you so that you will live. And you will know that I am God."

I prophesied as told. A sound started up, as I was prophesying, a noise, a rattling like thunder, and the bones came together, bone

joining bone. I looked. There were sinews on them, and flesh was growing on them. God said to me, “Prophesy to the winds, prophesy Human One, and say to the wind, ‘Come from the four winds, O Spirit, and breathe upon these dead that they may come to life.’” I thus prophesied, and the Spirit came into them, and they stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

God said to me, “Human One, these bones are the whole house of My people. They keep saying ‘Our bones are dry, our hope has gone, we are cut off.’ Therefore, prophesy! Say to them, ‘The God-Who-Is says this: Look! I am going to open your graves. I will raise you from your graves, My people, and I will bring you back. You will know that I am your God when I open your graves and bring you up from them. You are My people. I will put My spirit in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I, God, have spoken, —and thus it is accomplished, declares your God.’”

Words Inspired by God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm O Dios, Creo En Mi (R Inst; R cantor; R all; V2 cantor; R all)

Second Reading *Lector Kerrie Anderson*

A Reading from *You Can't Fly With One Wing,* by Mark Nepo, from **Surviving Storms**

"After the first half of her life was spent in a convent, Catherine of Sienna (1347-1380) was called by God to enter the world. She questioned why? Jesus came to her in a vision and said, "There are two commandments. Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. You have only done the first. You can't walk with one foot. You can't fly with one wing." And so she entered the world, aspiring to be an integrated contemplative loving the God in others and the God in herself until the commandments became interchangeable, until loving herself was loving God, in a series of embodied moments that erased all boundaries…an indivisible Oneness of the heart…

The promise of the inner world is that the flow of Spirit between the living joins us without restraint and without preference. One way to characterize this is as *generosity* which comes from the Greek *plerosis*, meaning a "fullness that moves in all directions." When we love the very heart of each other, we drink from the fullness that moves in all directions.

Of course, being human and being on Earth, we fall prey to many distractions and disruptions. And so, we must remain committed to finding and drinking from that fullness that moves in all directions, again and again.

The original meaning of the word *repeat,* from the late Middle English means "to seek again." This is a lifelong practice to seek the spirit that flows between us, again and again.

Words inspired by God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation MOD (R; V9; R)

Gospel *Please sit as this gospel is long. Lector Jared Orsi*

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

A proclamation of the Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you O God.

Now a certain a man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed Jesus with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair. Lazarus, who was ill, was her brother. So, his sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Rabbi, the one whom you love is dying."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then, he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the religious leaders were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?"



Jesus said to his disciples, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples responded, “Respectfully, Teacher, if he's fallen asleep, he will be all right, and well rested when he wakes.” Jesus had been speaking about the death of Lazarus, but the disciples thought he was referring to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let’s go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to the other disciples, “Let’s also go to die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many religious leaders and Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Teacher, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died; but I know that God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother



will rise again." Martha said to Jesus, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live; and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, I believe that you are the Messiah, God's Chosen One, the one coming into the world."

After Martha said this, she went back to the village and spoke to her sister, Mary, privately. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. Those who had been with Mary in the house comforting her noticed how quickly she got up and went out. They followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "If you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Judeans who had

come with her weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit. “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see,” they replied. And Jesus wept. Then the Judeans said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Couldn’t he who opened the eyes of the one born blind have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus, still deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “Rabbi”, said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “there will be a stench by this time. He’s been dead for four days.” Then Jesus said, “Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?”

So, they took away the stone.

Then Jesus prayed and said, “Loving God, I thank You that You have heard me. I know that You always hear me. I say this out loud for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe You sent me.” Then Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of linen, and a cloth wrapped around his face. Jesus said to them, “Untie him, and let him go.”

After this, many of the mourners who had come to visit Mary and

had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: Praise to you Jesus our Christ.

Homily: **Jared Orsi**

Creed

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

Rev. Jane: May we join with Jesus during this Lent and be transformed into the Love and Peace that heals what is ready to be healed. So we pray…

Lector Kerrie Anderson

Our response is: Healing God, hear our prayers.

For people who weep for their loved ones oppressed or killed by those whose hatred and fear cause these actions, that they all may receive your healing graces and move forward to peaceful co-existence, we pray, **Response: Healing God, hear our prayers.**

For the students and teachers returning to their classes this week, that they are refreshed and eager to pursue their studies, we pray, **Response: Healing God hear our prayers.**

For people who are facing food insecurity, house insecurity, work insecurity that there may be an increase in resources for them to utilize and may the resources ease their lives and give them hope, we pray, **Response: Healing God, hear our prayers.**

The prayers from the sanctuary are: we pray,

Response: Healing God, hear our prayers.

Are there prayers from our members on zoom?

Response: Healing God, hear our prayers.

And for all the people on our prayer list and the prayers we hold sacred in our hearts, we pray, **Response: Healing God, hear our prayers.**

Rev. Jane O Holy Mystery, hear our prayers joined with all the prayers world-wide for peace. Help us awaken to our own gifts to love and unite through the nonviolence and peace of Jesus. **All: Amen**

The Peace

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you my peace, my peace I give you." May the Peace of Christ be in all of you.

All: And also within 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

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.

Let us sing together. . .

Offertory Song **I Know That My Redeemer Lives** (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 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 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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

Let us soften and open 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.**

Blessed are you, compassionate and faithful God—to you we offer thanks and praise everywhere and always. All that exists has its origin in you. You, O God, 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 the Resurrection Life, actively courageous, authentic, compassionate, and nonviolent. 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 beauty of creation.

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

Holy *MOD*

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:

Sanctify these gifts of the 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Memorial Acclamation Save Us Savior *MOD*

God of Love and Peace, through Jesus our Christ you have entrusted us with this Passover meal, this 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 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 MOD

The Prayer of Jesus

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

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, or your table at home, Christ calls us to a deeper kinship than we can imagine. The door to the heart of God is open, enter, come forward, join in the feast of sacrifice and love.

Communion Song **Into The Desert (V1; R; V3; R)**

Prayer after Communion

If you are able, please stand

Let us pray. . .Loving and generous God, we thank you for gathering us as the Body of Christ. May we offer ourselves in this preparatory season with you in our hearts as we are in your heart. Food for the journey. We ask this through Jesus our Christ. **All: Amen**

Blessing and Dismissal

The Peace of God is within you. **All: And also within you.**

May God bless us with wisdom, courage, honesty, vulnerability, and perseverance.

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

All: Amen

Go, steadfast on what remains of our journey with Jesus and Jesus' journey with us,

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song **Can We Love. (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)**