



Mary of Magdala, ECC– July 14, 2024

Celebrating the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Together Wherever We Are
Fr. Michael Nicosia presiding

Announcements – Lector Art Bavoso

Social Justice Reflection - Tom Moos

Entrance Song Our God Is Here (v1; R; v2; R)

Greeting

Let us enter more deeply into the liturgy that empowers us,
in the name of our creator God, ~~X~~ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you!

Penitential Rite

Here in this time, here in this place,
as we stand here face to face, God is here.

Only here?

Can God be contained in our ways of faith and worship?
Doesn't the Spirit animate all that is?

Mystery beyond our understanding,
whenever we think we have a monopoly on truth,
have compassion and expand our minds.

All: Have compassion and expand our awareness.

Cosmic Christ, whenever we assume that
our ways are the narrow gate through which everyone should pass,
have compassion and expand our hearts.

All: Have compassion and expand our minds.

Spirit of Grace, whenever we close ourselves off
from your wisdom channeled through others,



have compassion and expand our awareness.

All: Have compassion and expand our hearts.

May Almighty God have compassion on us,
forgive us our sins, **X** and bring us to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Glorious One, God of Jesus the Christ,
you have given us a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
resulting in an ever-deepening knowledge of you.
Open us further through the worship and reflections of this day
that we may cooperate more fully with your Spirit
alive and active in the midst of this community,
now and always. **All: Amen.**

Let us lift our voices in praise.

Glory to God : (Mass of the Desert)

And now, let us listen to the word of God, spoken in our midst.

1st reading: The Narrow Gate - Lector Art Bavoso

“The Narrow Gate” by Joan Chittister, from IN GOD’S HOLY LIGHT.

Amma Theodora said, “Let us strive to enter by the narrow gate. Just as the trees, if they haven’t stood before the winter’s storms cannot bear fruit, so it is with us, this present age is a storm and it is only through many trials and temptation that we can obtain an inheritance in the kin-dom of heaven.”

Amma Theodora is a woman of our own times. She knows that no religious regimen alone can possibly make us truly spiritual people. She knows that it is not what we do to satisfy our religious obligations that makes us holy. It is, instead, what we do when it seems impossible to do anything to make the world the place God means it to be. It is making the world in any way religious at all that tests the mettle in us. Then we can see the effect of the religious practices we do. Then we come to know what it means to “enter through the narrow gate.” . . .



It is character, she tells us, it is the quality of goodness in a person, that is truly spiritual and that is demanded in difficult times. . . . To be truly spiritual people in our own time, rote religion will not do. Only by applying the Word of God to the issues of the day can we ever hope to claim to be disciples now.

Words inspired by God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 85 :9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 - Lector Art Bavoso

Our response is: Justice and peace will kiss.

All: Justice and peace will kiss.

We listen for the Word of God. Surely it will be a message of peace to the people, to those who open their hearts. Healing is here.

Creation sings around us, revealing God's presence, revealing Glory.

All: Justice and peace will kiss.

Love and truth will meet. Justice and peace will kiss.

Truth will spring up from the earth. Justice will rain down from the sky.

All: Justice and peace will kiss.

God provides the Earth with bounty. Our land brings forth a harvest of goodness, Justice will march, paving a path with peace, preparing a way for God's footsteps.

All: Justice and peace will kiss.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1. 1b, 15-23 –Lector Matt Chavez

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. To God's holy ones in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus...

Ever since I heard about your faith in Jesus the Christ, and your love for all God's people—all the holy ones, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

May the Glorious One, the God of Jesus the Christ, give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, resulting in knowledge of God. May the eyes of your heart be enlightened, that you may know the hope that belongs to your call, the riches of glory in sharing the inheritance of God's holy ones, and the incomparable power that is exercised for those who believe. This is the same power that was at work in



Jesus the Christ when he was raised from the dead and sent into the heavens, filling them with the Christ.

This Cosmic Christ is a universal presence, exceeding every rule and authority, power and dominion, and any name that is invoked, not only in this present age but also in the age to come. God placed all things in care of the Christ, who was made the head of the church. The church is Christ's body, the fullness of the One who fills everything in every way.

The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (MOD) w/inclusive verse

Gospel: Mark 6. 7-13

My siblings in Christ, the Spirit is with you. All: And also with you.

A Proclamation of the Gospel attributed to Mark. All: Glory to you, O God.

After being rejected in his hometown, Nazareth,

Jesus went around to the villages in the vicinity to teach there.

He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two,
giving them authority over unclean spirits.

Jesus instructed them to take nothing for their journey

except a staff, a walking stick:

no food, no sack, no money in their belts.

They were, however, to wear sandals,
but not an extra tunic over their clothes.

Jesus said, "Whenever you enter a house anywhere,

stay there until you leave that district.

If you are not welcome in a place, or people do not listen to you,
leave there, and shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them

So, they set off, preaching repentance.

They drove out many demons,

and they anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

Upon returning, they rejoined Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

Jesus said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place
and rest a while."

People were coming and going in great numbers,

and they did not even have time to eat.



So, they left in a boat by themselves to a deserted place.
But people saw them leaving and many more came to know about it.
They hastened on foot from all the towns,
arriving at the place ahead of Jesus and the disciples.
When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast crowd,
his heart was moved with compassion for them,
for they were like sheep without a shepherd.
He began to teach them many things.
The Good News of Salvation of Jesus our Christ.
All: Praise to you, Jesus, our Christ.

Homily: “Community — our door into the Kingdom”

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*“May the Glorious One, the God of Jesus the Christ,
give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
resulting in an ever-deepening knowledge of God.”*

So Paul prayed for God’s holy ones in Ephesus
after hearing the testimonies of their faith and their love.
Let us testify to Our Truth.

Our Truth (Fr. Michael J. Nicosia © 2020, 2024)

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, our brother and teacher,
the Word eternally spoken by God
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 with the Father and the Son models equality in diversity



and the blessings that proceed from self-giving 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

As a community of faith, called to be channels of the Spirit,
let us intercede for the needs of the church and the world.

Lector - Matt Chavez Our response will be: Loving God, receive our prayers.
All: Loving God, receive our prayers.

For all churches and church leaders that they will lead by their example of love and inclusivity when preaching and teaching the Word, we pray...

All: Loving God, receive our prayers.

For the peoples of the world who are suffering from the effects of heat, drought, lack of food, and war, that they will be supported by us in their need, we pray...

All: Loving God, receive our prayers.

For all ECC staff, leaders, and laity as we prepare for the Synod, that we will be guided by the Spirit and open to new ways of being Christ in our world, we pray...

All: Loving God, receive our prayers.

For the prayers of those in the sanctuary... we pray...**All: Loving God ...**

For the prayers from those on Zoom, we pray...**All: Loving God ...**

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

Good and gracious God,
your Spirit animates all people and the whole of Creation.



Hear our prayers and help us put our faith into actions of love,
joining in the communal work of building up your Kingdom.

We also pray together...



Our Prayer for Synod

God on High, the mountains are radiant with your glory.
Through your Christ the dawn from on high
has broken upon us and lights our way.
Bless our preparations for our Holy Synod,
that we may be better bearers of the fire
that gives light to the world.
This we ask and can do, empowered by your Spirit,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Peace

As the Psalmist testified,

“Surely the Word of God will be a message of peace to the people,
to those who open their hearts.”

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,
then extend that peace to those around you.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink here and in our homes,
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.

You may be seated if you wish. Let us sing together:

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

Preparation of the Gifts (*during offertory song*)

Blessed are you, Lord, 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. *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, Lord, 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. *Blessed is God forever.*

The Washing of Hands

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

God of ever-flowing grace,
transform these offerings into the instrument of our transformation, made
possible through our lived experience of the Cosmic Christ.

All: Amen

Preface of God's Triune Mystery

(Michael J. Nicosia © 2022, based on Anselm of Canterbury's PROSLOGION)

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

You are worthy of our praise, O God Most High,
for our souls have found your being to be life itself;



light, wisdom, and goodness, everywhere and always;
eternal blessedness and blessed eternity.

Found, I say, (if pure mystery can be found,) only by your grace;
for we touch upon truth only by being touched by it.

The mystery of your Triune-Being opens us
to the varied possibilities of encounter with You
—as Source and Ground of our being,
—as Uttered Word accomplishing your Will and enfleshing your Love,
—as Breathe that moves and convicts and directs and empowers,
that we may be united to You and to one another.

We are relational beings, created in your image and likeness;
relational, You invite us in.
Yet mystery You remain,
for the eye of the soul is both darkened by its own limitations
and dazzled by your glory.

Most High, who are the Three and the One God,
blessed for ever and ever,
we pray to know You all the more, to love You all the more,
advancing day by day, until our joy comes to the full
and our hope is fully realized in the promise of heaven.

Still, what the mind cannot grasp, the heart can sing;
and so we join the angels and saints in glory in their eternal hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy (MOD)

Flowing from the glory that was yours before all time and space,
the glory that you shared in the act of Creation,
and the same glory that was revealed in the mystery of Christ's incarnation,
challenge, death and resurrection,
and now flowing over us



—send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon the offerings we have set before you.

Bless ~~the~~ these gifts that they may become the body and blood of your Son Jesus
Christ, indeed, the fullness of you
who fills everything in every way.

As a community of his disciples
we remember what he did at table and in life,
foreshadowing the self-gift that was his death.

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 our faith:

Memorial Acclamation Save Us Savior... (MOD)

Loving God, we celebrate the memory of Christ, your Son,
all that he did and continues to do
to all peoples into the fullness of your Kindom.

While we ask you to remember
all our sisters and brothers 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 revelation
handed down to us from the Apostles.



Continue to empower us as laypersons, deacons and priests for the special ministry given to the Body of Christ, praying especially for its local incarnation, in union with bishop Kym, bishop-elect Meghan, and our own bishop Kae.

Remember, O God, all those who have died....

Welcome them into your glorious presence with Mary, our Mother, our patron Mary of Magdala, and all who have gone before us touched by your Spirit as they enjoy the fullness of the communion that is our destiny.

**All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours,
Self-emptying/Life-giving God, forever and ever.**

Amen (MOD)

Lamb of God (MOD)

The Prayer of Jesus

Let us turn again to the camera

so that we can pray together 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 (MOD)

The Shared Table

This Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood is open to all, for the invitation is as inclusive as God's grace. Blessed are we who are called to this meal.



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

As we partake of the sustenance laid before us, let us affirm 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.**

Communion One Bread One Body (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3)

Prayer after the Meal

Let us pray.

God in our midst, you renew and broaden our sense of community
through the grace flowing from this Sacrament.

By your grace, fortify the testimony of our faith and love,
that others may find a door into your Kindom through us.

All to your glory, God of Mystery found through such witness,
now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Jim Berry

Let us now join together in our prayer for Jim...

All: In the name of God, we bless you, Jim.
**May you receive the gifts of wisdom and insight,
compassion and understanding,
growth and discernment throughout this ordination process.**
We bless you, Jim, as you bless us.
Under the watchful eyes of the Sacred Three in One we pray. Amen.

Concluding Rite

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

Blessing

May almighty God bless you: the Source of All-Being,
the Eternal Word **¶** and the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen**



Dismissal

Our celebration continues.

Let us go in peace to love and serve
the God of our understanding and beyond,
and the neighbor we can only know better.

All: Thanks be to God!

Closing Song: Go Make A Difference (R; v1; R; v2; R; v3; R)