Mary of Magdala, Apostle to the Apostles
A Vatican II Catholic Eucharistic Community

Order of Worship
Third Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle B
January 24, 2021

Zoom: ID 262 492 9093  PW 101 352
Rev. Alice Iaquinta, Presider
A word of welcome to Mary of Magdala, Apostle to the Apostles inclusive Vatican II Catholic Church, where all are welcomed to communion at the Eucharistic table. A special welcome to those who are with us today for the first time. We invite everyone to share in communion at home. We are blessed to have you with us. We hope you will join us again in the coming weeks and months on zoom. We hope to continue with a “hybrid” liturgy in the future when we can meet in person once again, because so many of God’s people attending are at great distances. We are tentatively hoping that will be for Pentecost!

Since liturgy means the work of the people, you will find that in today’s liturgy, we will reclaim from the earliest years of Christianity, what was named and designated as the Commercium, which is Latin for the Exchange. It makes very clear that it is the people who are the ministers of the liturgy and the people who bring the gifts, offer their prayers and express their beliefs. It is the people who ask for the blessing over the gifts and it is the believers who offer the Eucharistic prayer. We will need 3 Scripture readers and 8 prayer leaders for today’s service. (See below)

Also, you will need a small bowl of water that you can bless and use to “sprinkle” yourself. Your worship aid has the prayers needed for the liturgy, your work, the work of the people. We have the practice of breaking open the Word in our shared homily.

(Please be sure to unmute before your prayer part and to mute yourself again at the end.)

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Art work on cover:
https://www.artmajeur.com/en/goodaboom/presentation

“Paul on The road to Damascus” by Miki De Goodaboom, a professional French artist, born in the Pyrenees. Her works have been sold and published worldwide. Her painting is a reflection of her life: a permanent oscillation between light and shadow, lines and shapes, times and places, always looking for that equilibrium which she can only find in continuous movement, in the mysterious and the unknown. A life divided between two passions: mathematics and painting. The first as a supreme form of abstract art ruling her universe... The second as a way of cementing the beauty of that art.
Gathering Song

LET US GO TO THE ALTAR

Refrain

Let us go to the altar of God, the God of our gladness and joy! Let us enter the courts of the house of the Lord, and sing to the glory of God.

Verses

1. Give praise with blast of trumpet, with noble sound of the horn.
2. Give praise with lyre and timbrel, with lute and sound of the harp.
3. Give praise with pipe and organ, with rousing beat of the drum.
4. Give praise, all creatures of heaven, and all that dwell on the earth. Come to worship the God who made us, and dance before the Lord!

Greeting and Introduction

Presider: We pray in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit.

All: AMEN!

Presider: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.
Opening Prayer

Presider: *Prayer from the opening session of Vatican II*

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our limitations, but aware that we gather in your name.

Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of our Creator and Savior.

Leader 1 and All:

You desire justice for all; enable us to uphold the rights of others.
Do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true, as we gather in your name.

May we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward you promised to good and faithful servants.

Come, Holy Spirit and renew in us the power of your fire, that we may work tirelessly for justice and peace and love deeply, despite adversity and trials.

We ask this through our brother Jesus the Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts 22: 1-30


“Brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, friends, listen now to my defense.”

When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet. Then Paul said:

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our
I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me,

‘Saul!
Saul!
Why do you persecute me?’

‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied.

My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked.

‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’

My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. He stood beside me and said,

‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’

And at that very moment I was able to see him. Then he said:

‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now, what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name!!’
When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord speaking to me.

‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.’

‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’

Then the Lord said to me,

‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted,

[All say] “Rid the earth of him! He’s not fit to live!”

As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this. As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there,

“Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been found guilty?”

When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it.

“What are you going to do?” he asked. “This man is a Roman citizen.”

The commander went to Paul and asked,

“Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”

“Yes, I am,” he answered.

Then the commander said,

“I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship.”

“But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.

Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains. The commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews. So the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

The Word of God.  R: Thanks be to God!
Psalm Sung by Cantor Bill

Second Reading Acts 23:1-33

We continue reading from the Acts of the Apostles according to Luke. Remember, the commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains. The commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews. So the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

And Paul, looking intently at the council, said,

"Brethren, I have lived before God in all good conscience up to this day."

And the high priest, Ananias, commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him,

"God shall strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?"

Those who stood by said,

[All] "Would you revile God's high priest?"

And Paul said,

"I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’"

But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council,

"Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead I am on trial."

And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided because the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

Then a great clamor arose; and some of the scribes of the Pharisees’ party stood up and contended,

"We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"
And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn in pieces by the assembled, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them and bring him into the barracks.

The following night the Lord stood by him and said,

"Take courage, for as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also at Rome."

The Word of God.  R: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

“This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds and believe this Good News!”

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, because they fished by trade. Jesus said to them, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind."

They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus. Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John, begot of Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help, and went off in the company of Jesus.

The Good News of Salvation.  All: Glory and Praise to you, Jesus Christ!

Shared Homily
Profession of faith
Leader 2 and All:

We believe in the God of grace.
We follow Jesus, the risen Teacher of Love.
We live by the Spirit of mercy.
We trust God's healing of the world.

When people spread fear and division, when evil, injustice and oppression thrive, no political revolution, program or platform will save us.
Only a people transformed by grace and light, and a bold and sustained outbreak of gentleness will.

By the grace of God, we will stand up to cynicism, hate and indifference, and blanket this world with compassion, calm and mercy.
By the grace of God, we will proclaim the truth against all resistance, and meet fear and hate with healing.

By the grace of God, we will obstruct the progress of injustice with our prayers, our words and our bodies, and we will infest the world with grace and love.

We believe the Grace of God can open hearts and a spirit of deep listening, with courage to enter the wounds of the world, bringing a spirit of peace to face violence with nonviolence, and patience to answer darkness with light.

In humility we offer ourselves as the first to be changed.
We pray for one another, for we are one Body in Christ Jesus.

By the grace of God, we devote ourselves to service and discipline, giving thanks for the great Spirit of Grace already breathing in us, already rising, in hope and love, as the gentle people of God.
We pray, O God, to embrace a vision of your world as you would have it,

that we can create a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or are poor;

that we can create a world where the riches of creation are honored and shared so everyone might enjoy them;

that we can create world where different races, cultures and creeds can live in peace and harmony, with equal dignity;

that we can create a world where peace is built with justice and justice is guided by love.

We pray for inspiration and courage,
that we will go forth with willing hearts, minds, and bodies to build such a world, through Christ Jesus.

We pray for You, our God of hope, to fill us with comfort and joy
that we will truly believe we can build such a world.

We pray for the peace of Christ to abound in our hearts and minds,
that the Holy Spirit’s gifts will guide us in fulfilling our mission.

And for what else shall we pray?
Presentation Song

Refrain
Where two or three are gathered in my name,
love will be found, life will abound.

By name we are called, from water we are sent:

to become the eyes and hands of Christ.

Verses 1, 2
1. One we become, no longer strangers.
2. One in the Spirit, one in the Lord. One in the
empty or frail. Filled with the Spirit, every
breaking of the bread. Life-giving witness of our

1. hunger satisfied. Christ is the center of our lives.
2. dying and new life. Held by the promise in our hands.

Verse 3
3. Not what we are, but what we become. Not what we
3. say, but what we do. Living the challenge as

3. bearers of light. We are the eyes and hands of Christ.

Preparation of our Gifts at home

Blessing Prayers over the gifts
Leader 4 and All: 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.
Blessed be God for ever.
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 for us our spiritual drink.
    Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts of time, talent, and treasure, to humbly offer back to you as the work of our human hands. They will become for us instruments of your presence among us.
    Blessed be God for ever.

Prayer over our Gifts:

Presider:  “Pray, my dear friends, that these, our gifts of bread and wine may be acceptable to our loving God.”

Leader 4 and All:  May God accept these gifts from our hands, for the praise and the glory of God’s name, for our good and the good of all.

May God increase our ability to love, strengthening and inspiring us to live in service to peace, justice, acceptance and love for all.

Preface Dialogue:

Presider: God be with you.  All:  And also with you.
Presider: Lift up your hearts.  All:  We lift them up to God.
Presider: Let us give thanks to God.  All:  It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface prayer

Leader 5 and All:

God of life, you nurture and sustain your people;
You bless us with abundance.
You gift us with your graciousness.
You know our every need.
In the birthing of creation, You call us into being.
You gift us with health and wholeness.
You sustain our every endeavor.
You feed your hungering people.
You call us to work for justice,
to share our table with all creation,
to feed the needy at our door,
to see that nobody is left in need.

Presider:  For the blessing of your gifts, and the challenge of your call to us, we lift our voices as we acclaim your gracious love......
Holy, Holy, Holy

(all sing).

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Epiclesis (Invocation of the Holy Spirit)

Presider: The table we share is adorned with the gifts of creation, gifts given for all to share in equality and justice, a table where all are welcome, and from which nobody is to be excluded, from the greatest even to the least.

As a Christian people, we celebrate the open table, proclaimed by Jesus, our liberator and our friend, a table of abundant life, inclusive love, and redemptive liberation.

It is at this table upon which we now invoke God’s Creative Spirit, to transform these earthly gifts of bread and wine, so that they may become food that will nourish and sustain us as a pilgrim people.

May they, and we, become holy as the body and blood of your son, Jesus the Christ, at whose command we celebrate this eucharist.
Institution Narrative

Presider: We recall that on the night before he died, the night on which Jesus gathered his loved ones to share a meal at table, he took bread into his hands, broke it and blessed it. He gave it to all those present saying, “

All: “Take this, all of you, and eat.
   This is my body which will be given up for you.”

Presider: In the same way Jesus took the cup of wine into his hands and again gave You thanks and praise then gave the cup to all saying,”

All: “Take this, all of you and drink;
   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.”

Memorial Acclamations:

Presider: With joy and confidence, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Anamnesis, Offering, Intercessions

Presider: As we celebrate this Eucharist, we call to mind that we are people nourished throughout the ages, and we look forward in hope to that day when the justice of God will guarantee food for all who hunger for the fullness of life. With grateful hearts we receive the gifts of this table. May the creative Spirit, who energizes these gifts, activate in our hearts a hunger for justice that will guarantee sustenance for every human being.

Leader 6 and All:

In the spirit of this celebration, we rejoice and thank God for all we have received; but we do so in the painful awareness of all who are excluded from the table of God’s abundant life.
Awaken in us, O God, a passion for equality and generosity of spirit, that all may be brought to the table of abundance from which God wants no one to be excluded.

This prayer we make in union with all God’s people, living and dead, and particularly with those laboring for justice in our world.

May we all know the blessing of our loving God, Creator Liberator and Holy Spirit, in whose power we gather here, nourished and sustained, now and forever.

Presider: Holy One, we ask you to look with favor on each of us and on our gifts of bread and wine, that we offer in thanksgiving and worship.

Grant that we, in solidarity with all witnesses to the Gospel, may be one body, one spirit in Christ.

May this offering, which has made our peace with you, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Unite all people, everywhere, in mercy and love. Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim church, as we proclaim your glory, through Christ, from whom all good things come.

Doxology

Presider: We rejoice, because it is ....

All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Creator God, now and forever.

Great Amen

Disciples’ Prayer

Presider: With confidence, we pray to God, the Holy One, Creator and Source of All, the Great Spirit, Allah, Yahweh,

Leader 7 and All

our Mother, our Father, who art in heaven, holy be your name. Your kindom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive others; Lead us out of temptation and deliver us from all evil. For yours is the kindom, the power and the glory, now and forever.

Amen

Sign of Peace
Breaking of the Bread

Presider: “This is Jesus, who in all his humanness, taught us, to repent and follow the Gospel. Blessed are we who come to this meal.

All: Jesus, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Savior of the world.

Communion Song

Quiet meditation time

Prayer after communion*

Presider: 

*By this Eucharist,
our embrace of the Spirit that we have in common is strengthened.
With tenderness and sympathy,
with a common purpose and a common mind,
we are united in our convictions and united in your love.

*By this Eucharist,
We are strengthened to be humble, valuing others over ourselves,
thinking of others’ interests before our own.

*By this Eucharist,
may our attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus.
Leader 8 and All:

We understand that we are not equal with God, but that, when we become completely empty, taking the images and experiences of oppressed humankind into our hearts and minds in solidarity, we become like Jesus, all of us born into the human condition, all of us one.

Source of all Love, watch over your church and bring us to the glory of the resurrection, filled by the power of your Holy Spirit.

By this Eucharist may we grow in our ability to love and to live our Vatican II faith in the world. Bless our efforts to serve you by loving others well. Amen

Announcements: Zoom mid-week check-in on Th. Jan. 28 at 9:30-12:30

Notes from Zoom Community meeting on Sat. Jan 16 posted to website soon.

Website Members Section login: ID: members PW: live_Jesus
(please note that the ID is plural!)

*The Prayer after communion is based on the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-5

Closing Rite

Blessing

Presider: ✠ May God bless us and keep us safe from all harm. May God’s face shine upon us and bring us peace. May God’s love sustain us in building the kingdom.

In the name of the Creator, the Word and Wisdom Sophia.

Dismissal prayer

Leader 8 and All: Filled with the Spirit, we now go forth into the world to “live Jesus,” bringing God’s loving presence to our communities, through faith, sacrament and outreach. Thanks be to God. Amen!
Sending forth Hymn

570

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory,
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav’n re-
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing,
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus Which the morning

1. Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flow’rs before thee,
2. Sleet thy rays, Stars and angels sing around thee,
3. Ever blest, Well-spring of the joy of living,
4. Stars began; Love divine is reigning o’er us,

1. O’ning to the sun above. Melt the clouds of
2. Center of unbroken praise; Field and forest,
3. Ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father,
4. Bind-ing all within its span. Ever singing,

1. Sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
2. Vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flaming sea,
3. Christ, our brother, All who live in love are thine;
4. March we on-ward, Victors in the midst of strife;

1. Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.
2. Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.
4. Joyful music leads us sunward, In the triumph song of life.