

Liturgy – Feast of Mary of Magdala July 24 2021 - Light of Christ

Welcome:

Opening Song: #457, Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Text: St. 1 Surrexit Christus hodie, Latin, 14thc. para. in Lyrica Davidica 1708, alt.; st. 2,3 The Compleat Psalmist, c. 1750, alt.; st. 4 Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Tune: EASTER HYMN, 77,77 with alleluias, Lyrica Davidica 1708

V1: Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia. Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia. Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia. Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia.

V2: Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia. Unto Christ, our heavenly King. Alleluia. Who endured the cross and grace, Alleluia. Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia.

Teri: Let us remember our God of the Divine Dance, as we begin as one expression of God's people.

+ Father, Son, Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Teri: May the Love of God, the hospitality of our brother Jesus, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P: And also with you.

(Adlib.....) - Feast of Mary of Magdala.

L: Let us remember God our Creator, who loves us into being, and continues to love us today.....

God, your Word has been in the breath of the earth since the dawn of creation, Lord have mercy.....

God, you show up in Love at the empty tombs of our lives, Christ have mercy....

God, you are the gardener planting a seed of love within each of us, Lord have mercy.....

May our loving God shower us with grace, be forever present to us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting joy and light.

P: Amen.

Spoken Gloria (from the Book of Daniel):

Glory and praise forever! (bells/tambourines)

Blessed are you, O God,

Praiseworthy and exalted forever;

And blessed is your holy and glorious name

For all ages.

Glory and praise forever! (*bells/tambourines*)

Blessed are you on the throne of your kin(g)dom,

Glory and praise forever! (bells/tambourines)

Blessed are you who look into the depths.

Glory and praise forever! (bells/tambourines)

Opening Prayer:

Teri: Let us pray....

God of all Goodness, we remember the holy women and men, all the holy ones, who went before us or walk beside us as faces of faith in You. We listen for those prophets in our midst, who speak your truth and live boldly in your Good News. May your Word, spoken in testaments old and new and even newer today, encourage our faith. In Your Good Name we Pray, **Amen.**

Readings/Homily:

First Reading: (Deacon Alice will read)

Our First Reading is the Story of Mary of Magdala and the Red Egg as told by Deacon Lawrence Klimecki.

After Jesus rose from the dead, and after His Ascension into Heaven, Mary of Magdala traveled about the country. She proclaimed the Gospel to all she met, eagerly sharing the news, "Christ is risen!" Arriving in Rome, she sought an audience with Tiberius Caesar, intending to complain about the treatment of the people of Judea under the governance of Pontius Pilate. Mary came from a wealthy and influential family. And so Tiberius granted her request for an audience. It was customary at the time to bring a gift to the emperor under these circumstances, each according to her means. Mary knelt before Caesar and held out her gift, a snow white egg.

"Christ is risen!" she said.

Tiberius knew of the events surrounding the death of Jesus. He was slightly amused as he listened to Mary.

"My child," he said to her, "how can a man rise from the dead? That is no more possible than it is for the egg you hold to turn bright scarlet." Before he uttered the last word he watched in awe as the egg Mary held turned a bright red.

"Christ is risen," she said again. "New life rising from a sealed tomb, just as new life rises from a sealed egg."

With such miraculous evidence, Caesar could no longer dismiss the stories he heard. And so he listened as Mary recounted the many abuses of Pilate and his soldiers, all performed in the name of Caesar. In response, Caesar reassigned the governor to Vienne. Tradition tells us that Pilate died an unpleasant death.

For this reason, from that day to this, Christians have marked the

Resurrection by giving each other brightly colored eggs, a symbol of new life rising from a sealed tomb.

This has been a telling of the story of Mary of Magdala and the Red Egg.

(Thanks be to God.)

Gospel

Teri: Alleluia. Alleluia. **(Alleluia. Alleluia.)**

Teri: May the Risen Christ be with you all. **(And also with you.)**

Teri: A Reading from the Holy Gospel attributed to John. **(Glory to you,
O God.)**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene went to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

Then the disciples went back to their homes,
but Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb
and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been,
one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said,
"and I don't know where they have put him."

At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,
but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said,

"Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him,
and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic,
"Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the
Father.

Go instead to my brothers and tell them,

'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the
Lord!"

And she told them that he had said these things to her.

This has been a reading from the Holy Gospel attributed to John. **(Praise
to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.)**

Homily: Teri

Prayers of the People – (To be read by Deacon Alice.)

Deacon Alice: Our response today is Jesus, we follow you.
(Jesus, we follow you.)

For our world and its leaders. That they may use their influence to strengthen the common good and serve with compassion and tolerance toward all, especially the most marginalized. We pray: **Jesus, we follow you.**

For our global church and all followers of Christ. That we may prayerfully discern how we are called to serve God and bring God's justice to birth in our world. We pray: **Jesus, we follow you.**

For those who are ill, especially BLANK. For those who suffer from anxiety, fear, guilt, or shame. For those struggling to find their place in this world. That Christ's tender love may guide them during this time and bring peace to their hearts. We pray: **Jesus, we follow you.**

For those who have died, especially BLANK. That they may feel the peace and joy of eternal life with God. And for those whose hearts are heavy with the passing of a loved one. That they may trust in the constant friendship of Jesus to walk with them during these days. We pray: **Jesus, we follow you.**

For Christians everywhere. That we may follow the example of Mary to recognize the Risen Christ in our midst and bring the message of God's unstoppable love to each person we encounter. We pray: **Jesus, we follow you.**

Now, Fr. Teri will lead us in the prayers that have been typed in the comments.....(PAUSE.....Alice, wait for Fr. Teri to read the prayers left in the comments on FB and to acknowledge any prayers offered in the sanctuary. She will let you know that it is time to move on.)

Deacon Alice: For these and for all the prayers we share through our hearts, we pray: **Jesus, we follow you.**

Deacon Alice: In addition, we want to remind you that at Light of Christ, we have a Prayer Companion Team of pastoral care givers. They welcome and invite you, in confidence, to share your concerns in more detail or depth or to pray for you when you can't find the words. You can email

them at prayercompanionteam@lightofchristecc.org, and one of them will reach out to you.
(Fr. Teri will finish the prayers.)

Sign of Peace (4 times, in sign language)

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Teri:

Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have these gifts to place on your table. They represent our time, our talent, our treasure, our entire lives. With your grace may they become the Light of Christ in the world today.

P: Blessed be God forever.

Teri: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread and this wine to place on your table. Work of earth and human hands. May they become our spiritual food and drink.

P: Blessed be God forever.

Teri: Wash away my iniquity, cleanse me from my sin.

Teri: Pray my sisters and brothers, my family, that these our gifts, our lives may continue to be blessed by our Loving God.

P: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at our hands, for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's church.

Teri: The justice of our God be with you all.

P And also with you.

Teri: Open your hearts.

P We open them to God.

Teri: Let us give thanks to our Loving God.

P It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer (adapted from Eucharistic Prayers for Inclusive Communities, Vol 2, Dierks and Meehan)

Teri:

God, you created the world, and all that lives in it. You called it all good, and blessed it with your breath. Your Word has been spoken throughout human history. We thank you for the ones, the women and men and transgender people, who work for justice and peace. We thank you for the faces of faith, for Mary of Magdala and for Peter, for those who call Light of Christ home, and the many others who strive to live faithful lives in love with You. We lean into your Spirit, the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and revealed the love of Resurrection, first to Mary, but then to all of creation. This love permeates your created world.

Therefore, we lift our joy to you,
joining our voices with all of your creation, the cosmos, and the
choirs of angels and shepherds we are glad to profess Your
praise:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and
might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna**

in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Holy One, Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Teri: God, who blesses us and calls us Beloved,

God, You are most Holy. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to plant the seeds of your reign within us that we may become signs of your love and compassion in the world. + Let also your Spirit come upon these gifts of bread and wine to make them holy so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our brother, Jesus the Christ.

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his family and friends. At that meal he took a loaf of bread, he broke it, blessed it, then gave it to his friends saying, **"Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be given up for you."** (bow)

That same night, Jesus also took the cup filled with wine, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying, **"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."** (bow)

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.....

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Teri:

We gather around many tables, knowing that God has called us together and that all tables are God's table. We celebrate this Meal, in memory of our brother Jesus. We honor the memory of all those who have shared in his earthly ministry, especially the one who became the first to share the story of his resurrection, Mary of Magdala. We treasure our participation in this resurrection and the new life growing in us.

God we ask that you bless our leaders, especially our newly affirmed Bishop Kae, that the shepherds in our midst may be inspired by your Spirit and also fed through your meal.

God, keep us faithful to your dreams for us, faithful to your Word alive in us. Strengthen us to follow where you would lead. As we get up from our seats at your Table and leave these sanctuaries today, may we stand tall in the Gospel, sharing the good news of resurrection and love and proclaiming the rights of the oppressed.

We are confident, God, that you remember our ancestors who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection. Welcome them into the embrace of your eternal love.

Shower us all with grace, along with all of creation, whom we have shared your breath with in this world.

May we together praise and glorify You, through Jesus the Christ.
(Lift elements)

Teri: Together now, we say.....

P: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours all loving God, forever and ever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Teri: Let us open our hearts and connect with one another, a symbol of how God is circling the world right now, and pray together:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin(g)dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

For the Kin(g)dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD!

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Teri: This is the Living God, the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the one who transforms the world, and who transforms us.

Blessed are we who are called to this meal.

P: God, I am ready to receive you. Because by your invitation, I am here. (You may choose to say something else here.)

(Invitation to Communion)

The Table is open. And it invites you to Be opened!

Be opened to receiving God's love.

We are invited to God's table just as we are.

Wherever you are on this journey of life, receive the grace that God shares with you today. You are welcome to eat the food before you and receive God's grace.

Communion Song: We Are One Body

Dana Scallon, 1981, 2005

We are one body, one body in Christ;
and we do not stand alone.

We are one body, one body in Christ;
and he came that we might have life.

I will live in you and you will live in my love.
When you eat my body and you drink my blood,
I will live in you and you will live in my love.

Will you feed my hungry, will you help my lame?
See the unborn baby, the forgotten one,
they are not forsaken, they are not unloved.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life;
he who believes in me will have eternal life.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life, I am the Final Sacrifice,
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life;
he who believes in me will have eternal life.

(to 4)

through the tears and sorrow, through the toils and strife.
Listen when I call you, for I know your need,
come to me, your shepherd, for my flock I feed.

Jesus is the Lord and he will come again.
At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bend;
Jesus is the Lord and he will come again.

Come receive my spirit, with my gifts be filled.
For you are my body, you're my hands and feet.
Speak my word of life to ev'ryone you meet.

Prayer after Communion:

Teri: Let us pray...

Righteous One of all generations.

Jesus called women and men to be partners in faith and ministry.
Jesus called women and men to profess God's Word, and to work
for justice. Jesus called women and men to be leaders in faith,
faces in faith. Today we know Jesus calls all and honors all
genders. May this meal we share today inspire all the ones here,
women and men, children and adults, to live faithful lives in God.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Teri: The Love of God be with you.

P And also with you.

Teri: Let us open our hearts as we ask for God's blessing.
Be God's blessing to others. Be the face of faith to others.
Share Jesus' story of resurrection and love. And be blessed, in
the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

P: Amen.

Teri: We are the Light of Christ. As we leave here today let us go
forth to serve God as we love and serve in God's world.

P Thanks be to God.

Closing Song: #683, I Will Choose Christ

Text and Tune: Tom Booth acc by Ed Bolduc, 1997 OCP and Tom Booth

Refrain: I will choose Christ, I will choose love, I choose to serve,
I give my heart, I give my life, I give my all to you.

Verse 1: How many times must he call my name
and show to me that he is God?
And as a servant he calls to me,
"You must serve too."