

May 7, 2022 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Blessing of all Women

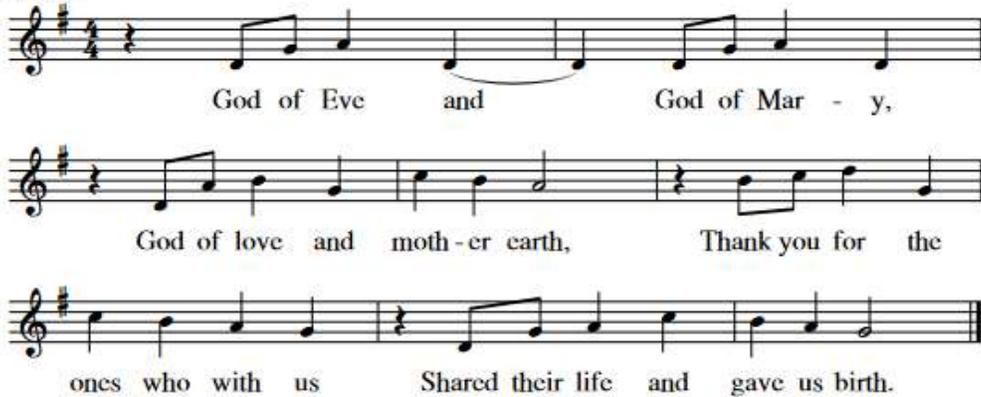
Responses of the people are indicated in ***bold/italics***.

Welcome and announcements:

Opening Song: #871 God of Eve and God of Mary

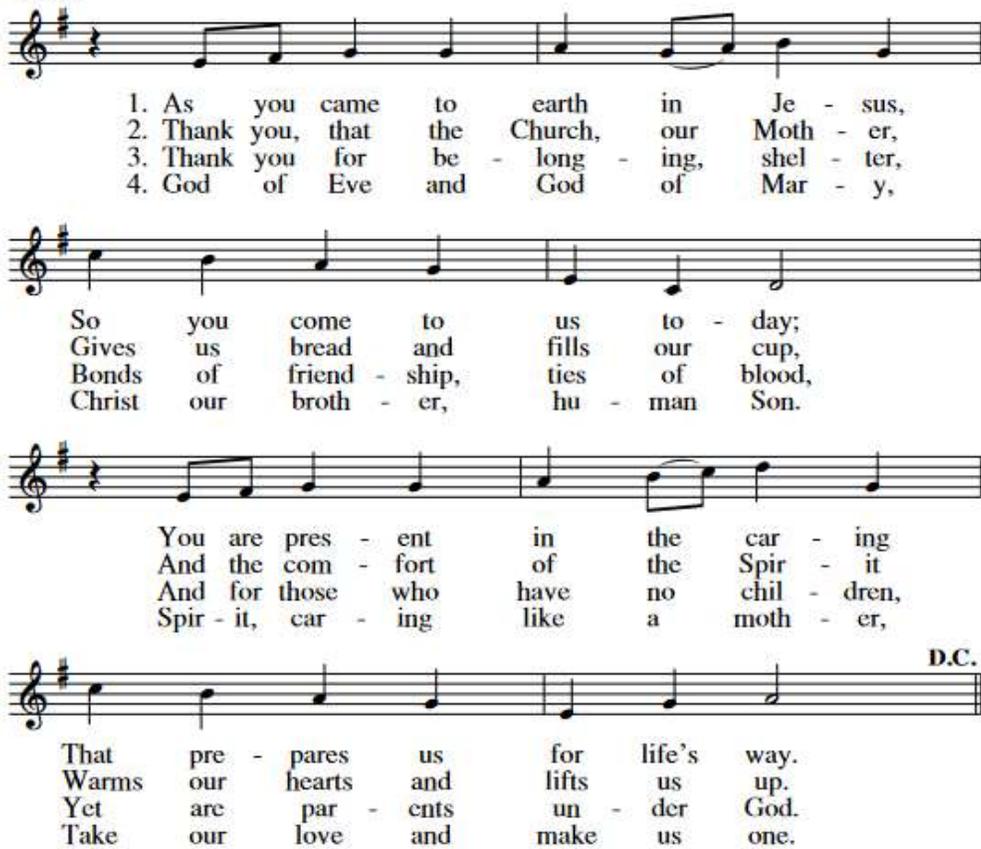
God of Eve and God of Mary

Refrain



God of Eve and God of Mar - y,
God of love and moth - er earth, Thank you for the
ones who with us Shared their life and gave us birth.

Verses



1. As you came to earth in Je - sus,
2. Thank you, that the Church, our Moth - er,
3. Thank you for be - long - ing, shel - ter,
4. God of Eve and God of Mar - y,
So you come to us to - day;
Gives us bread and fills our cup,
Bonds of friend - ship, ties of blood,
Christ our broth - er, hu - man Son.
You are pres - ent in the car - ing
And the com - fort of the Spir - it
And for those who have no chil - dren,
Spir - it, car - ing like a moth - er,
That pre - pares us for life's way.
Warms our hearts and lifts us up.
Yet are par - ents un - der God.
Take our love and make us one.

Text: Fred Kaan, b.1929, © 1989, Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: FARRELL, 8 7 8 7 with refrain; Thomas J. Porter, b.1958, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Teri: Let us continue as one expression of God's people.
+ Father, Son, Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Teri: May the Love of God, the peace of our brother Jesus, and the communion and friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
ALL: And also with you.

Penitential Rite:

Teri: We turn to God with our whole selves to receive God's grace and mercy.

Teri: God, You knit us in our mother's womb, Lord have mercy.....**Lord have mercy.**

Teri: God, You reveal yourself by being born as Incarnation with an earthly mother, Christ have mercy....**Christ have mercy.**

Teri: God, You are the Breath of all Life, Lord have mercy.....**Lord have mercy.**

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

Gloria:

Teri: Let us grab those holy noisemakers, and proclaim our Glory to God.

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, You are Love. You share Your love with us in extravagant ways, knowing each of us, and every hair on our head. Before we even make our first cry in this world, You know us and love us. Help us to see that each of us is a beloved child of You. Help us to embrace that core identity, and to encourage such holiness in one another. In Your Good and Holy Name we pray. **Amen.**

First Reading: - Irene

A Reading from the Book of Micah (5:2-5)

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

This has been a Reading from the Book of Micah.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: - Teri

Teri (spoken): Alleluia, Alleluia. **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Teri: May the Word of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Teri: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John (19:25B-27)

Glory to You, O God.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple,

“Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This has been a Reading from the Gospel of John.
Praise to You, Lord, Jesus our Christ.

Homily: Teri

Blessing of Women

(Ask women in the sanctuary to come forward so we can see them.)

Women gathered with us today, we bless you. We are grateful that you are among us. We recognize the times that you have given life to this community. We are grateful for the times that you have taught another about God’s love. We appreciate the times that you have taken another under your wing of care. We celebrate each one of you, and all you have accomplished and contributed. Today, we validate the lives of all women. Today, we encourage all women. Today, we are grateful for all the women that we share the journey with, and all the women who have shared their journey with us. Today, we encourage each of you to be the woman that God called you to be. Women gathered with us, we bless you. We bless you in God’s good and holy name. ***Amen.***

Creed:

Teri: Please rise in Body and Spirit. I invite you to have your worship aid handy so that as a creed, a profession of faith, we can proclaim the Light of Christ mission statement together. Please join me:

Light of Christ Ecumenical Catholic Community is a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community for all who, following the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, seek compassion, justice and peace in the world. We seek to live our faith through liturgy and prayer, community building and collaboration, study and service. All are welcome! Amen.

Prayers of the People: - Irene

Irene: Our response today is: Mother God, gather us in. **(ALL:) *Mother God, gather us in.***

For the Church that God has birthed. May we strive to love one another as Jesus asks, and be guided by the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit. We pray: ***Mother God, gather us in.***

For our world and all those who live in it. May we recognize God's wing, gathering us all in like a mother hen. Loving us. Protecting us. Encouraging us. We pray: ***Mother God, gather us in.***

For all of us, gathered together today here and at home. For our mothers, and the women who have made an impact and inspired us in our lives. For those who are mothers, and for those for whom this day is a challenge. May God's love embrace us all and guide us to new beginnings. We pray: ***Mother, God, gather us in.***

For all those who are sick, and seek comfort especially Tom Glenn_____. May the healing grace of Jesus raise their bodies and spirits in wholeness and healthiness. We pray: ***Mother God, gather us in.***

For those who have died, especially_____. May they share in the Resurrection. We pray: ***Mother God, gather us in.***

Irene: Fr. Teri will now read the prayers that have been typed in the comments (PAUSE until Teri tells you to go on.) For these and for all the prayers we share through our hearts, we pray: ***Mother God, gather us in.***

Irene: In addition, Prayer Partners will be available after Mass here in the Sanctuary by the back altar. For those at home, or those who have a prayer to share during the week, you can email our Prayer Companion Team at prayercompanionteam@lightofchristecc.org and someone will reach out to you. These prayer ministries welcome and invite you, in confidence, to share your concerns in more detail or depth, or even to pray for you when you can't find the words.

Collect:

Sign of Peace:

Teri: May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: ***And also with you.***

Teri: Let us share with one another a sign of that peace using social distancing. You may be seated.

Offertory: (No music)

Teri: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to place on your table. These gifts have sometimes traveled through the mail to get here, and other times through pockets. They represent our entire lives. May they be-come the Light of Christ in your world. ***Blessed by God forever.***

Teri: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread and this wine and other food from our cupboards to place on your tables. Work of earth and human hands. May these be-come our spiritual food and drink. ***Blessed be God forever.***

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

May God 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 world.

Teri: Please rise. The peace of our God be with you all. ***And also with you.***

Teri: Open your hearts. ***We open them to our God.***

Teri: Let us give thanks to our Loving God. ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Teri: God, as your fingerprint is upon all creation, your love is embossed on the human family. You called Sarah and Abraham to parent the nation of your holy people so all people could be drawn into your loving embrace. You sent the prophets to speak your comforting word. You sent Jesus the Christ, to proclaim your inclusive love for all the cosmos. God, all of creation unveils your glory. Now, with all of creation, the choirs of angels

and shepherds, with the birds and the fish and the trees, we are glad to share God's praise:

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, You are most Holy. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, and what we do here gathered at tables throughout your world knowing that all tables are Your Table. May we be touched by your Spirit, to be signs of love and peace to one another, and to 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.

Today, we gather to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his followers and his friends. We recall how he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, and gave it to them saying - ***"Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be given up for you."***

That same night, Jesus also took the cup filled with wine, and after giving thanks, passed it to his disciples, 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."***

Teri (Spoken): Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.....

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

Teri: Beloved God, Creator of all, You have invited each of us here today, And so we gather at these tables, confident that all tables are your table, O God. We come from many places, differing in age, differing in gender, differing in race, orientation, politics, and even religion.

But we come from one world, and we are all made in your image.

As we come together around these tables we discover that our differences are indeed a blessing and our differences are to be celebrated; the more

difference we bring, the more fully we experience the presence of the sacred and holy in our midst.

We pray for our church, our chosen shepherds Bishop Francis and Bishop Kae, and all people of faith throughout the world who desire to be in relationship and love with you God. May we recognize your image in one another. Draw us closer in unity as you draw us all closer to you.

We are confident, God, that you remember also our brothers and sisters, our family, who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection. Welcome them into the light 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 our brother Jesus the Christ.

Teri: Together let us say:

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Teri: Let us join our hearts together in love, and pray together in the words that have been prayed with Jesus for centuries. As it is now May and the month of Mary, let us first pray the prayer known as the Hail Mary, and then go right into the Our Father.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, prayer for us, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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 thine is the Kin(g)dom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (Spoken. Teri, you will start this and people will join you.)

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. This is the one who transforms us. Blessed are we who are called to this meal.

God, I am ready to receive you. Because by your invitation, I am here.

(People will have various responses to the Agnes Dei.)

(Invitation to Communion)

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

Be opened to receiving God's love.

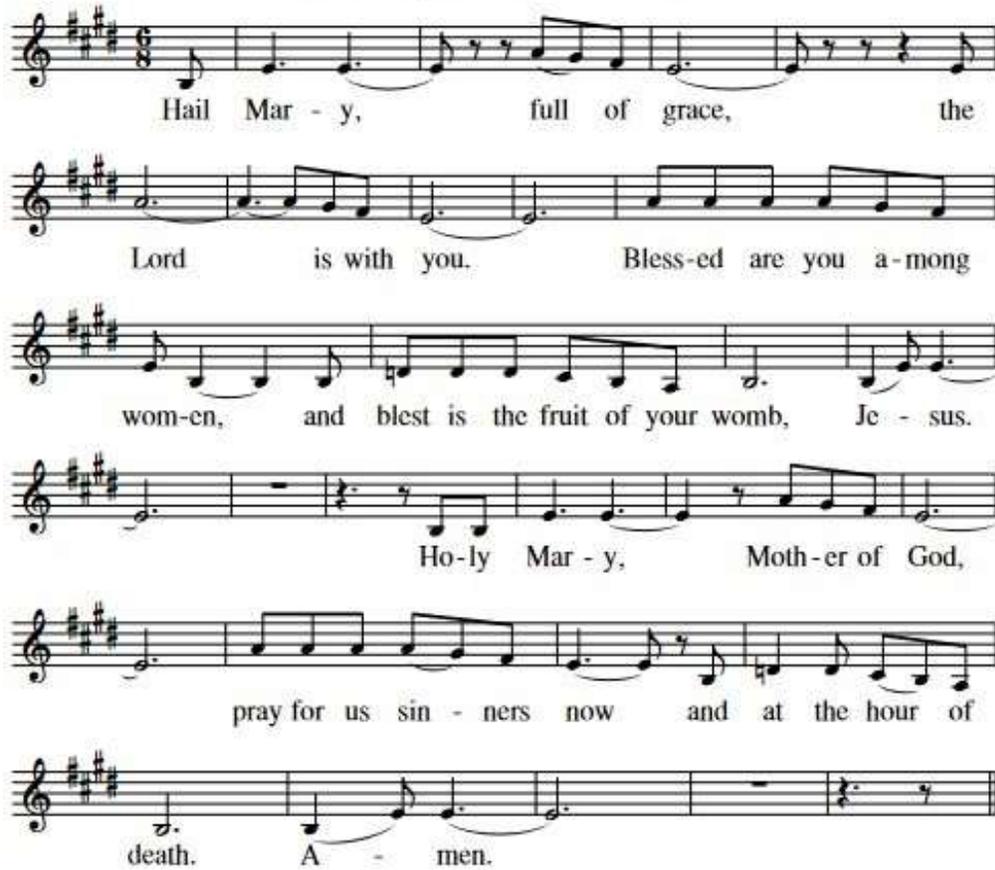
We are invited to these tables just as we are.

Wherever you are on this journey of life, you are welcome here, here in this place, here in this community, here at this table.

Come, children of God, come and remember with us.

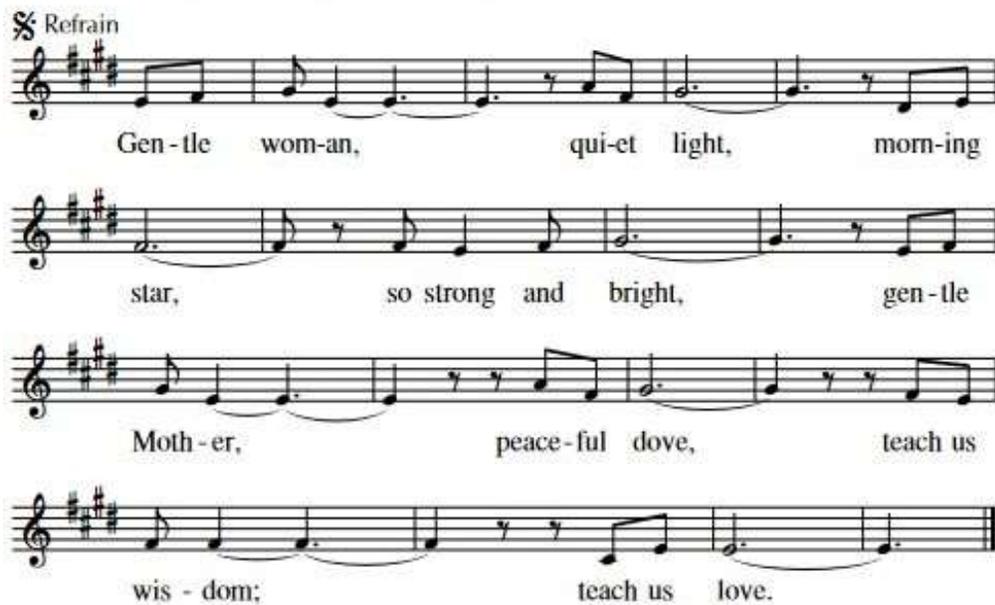
Communion Song: #779 Hail Mary: Gentle Woman

Hail Mary: Gentle Woman



Hail Mar - y, full of grace, the
Lord is with you. Bless-ed are you a-mong
wom-en, and blest is the fruit of your womb, Je - sus.
Ho-ly Mar - y, Moth-er of God,
pray for us sin - ners now and at the hour of
death. A - men.

♩ Refrain



Gen-tle wom-an, qui-et light, morn-ing
star, so strong and bright, gen-tle
Moth-er, peace-ful dove, teach us
wis - dom; teach us love.

Text: *Hail Mary*, alt.; Carey Landry, b.1944
Tune: Carey Landry, b.1944; arr. by Martha Lesinski, alt.
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Prayer after Communion:

Teri: Let us pray... God of Nourishment, we give you thanks for satisfying our hungry hearts with this meal. Send us from here to reveal your love in the world that all hungry hearts may know You and be fed, in Jesus' name together we pray: **Amen**

Teri: The Love of God be with you. **And also with you.**

Teri: Please open your hearts, as we ask for God's blessing. God, you are our Cherished Mother and Creator. You are astir within all the love we experience in our lives. You are the energy of endless goodness in each of us. And you are our blessing in each day. Bless us all now, in the name of our Sacred Mother, and of the Eternal Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Teri: We are the Light of Christ. Let us go forth as such, loving and serving God as we get to love and serve in God's world. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song: #772, Ave Maria

Ave Maria

Verses

1. Hail Mar - y full of grace, the Lord
 2. Ho - ly Mar - y moth-er of God, the Lord

is with you. Bless-ed are you a - mong all
 is with you. Pray for us sin - ners, pray for us

wom-en, Blest is the fruit of your womb.
 sin - ners, Now and at the hour of our death.

Refrain

Je - sus, formed in your faith, A - ve Ma - ri - a al - le -
 lu - ia. Je - sus, born in your love,
 A - ve Ma - ri - a al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Hail Mary; additional text by Dan Kantor, b.1960
 Tune: Dan Kantor, b.1960; arr. by Rob Glover, b.1950
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