

Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community



4th Week in Lent

March 18, 2023

Presider Team: Kathryn Shea and Lee Breyer

Readers: Beth Ponce and Andrea Seabaugh

Music Minister: Linda Lee Miller

I-team: Cheryl Brandi

Theme: Do unto others as you would like to have done to yourself

Welcome and Gathering

Kathryn: Welcome to this Zoom liturgy at Mary Mother of Jesus Catholic Community in Sarasota, Florida. All are welcome here; we are gathered from many places and have joined together today to celebrate a sacred liturgy. We invite everyone to pray their texts meaningfully, even though only a few persons, with special rolls, will not be muted during the service. However, during the Shared Homily and the Prayers of the Community, we invite you to unmute yourself so that you can contribute what you would like to say, and then re-mute yourself again afterward so that others have the same

opportunity as you to share their ideas in turn. And please have your bread and wine or juice nearby with you so that you can contribute with the prayer of Jesus, the Consecration, and then re-mute yourself for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Let us take a minute or two to pull ourselves together in mind and spirit to celebrate that we are truly a holy and worthy people. To do that, we will open our prayers with a song.

Opening Song: Gather Us In by Marty Haugen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar0BXa82F9M>

Opening Prayer

Beth: O God, Creator of all of us and supporter of our journeys into the heart of your compassionate care, we celebrate the love that you continually unfold for us. You call us to see goodness and beauty in every place where we find ourselves and to live in harmony with all of creation. You call us to heal the wounds of hatred and violence, discrimination and oppression in our world. You call us to warmly welcome everyone with whom we come in contact with. With the grace from our communion with Jesus, our brother, and with the power of the Spirit, we will live your love poured out to each of us, every day of our lives. Amen.

Community Reconciliation

Andrea: Compassionate God, to you all hearts are open, no desires unknown, and no secrets hidden. Our desire is that we may be continually conscious of this in our lives and recognize it in everything that we do with everyone, everywhere.

May we reach deep within ourselves to hear Wisdom's many messages, to faithfully understand them, and to respond to them with compassionate actions to our brothers and sisters. May we emulate the virtues of pardon and peace that Jesus taught us so that we may - in turn - be more forgiving and care for ourselves, for one another, and for our planet Earth.

May we gather strength through the Divine Presence within us to extend your merciful and forgiving presence that is your gift - through us - to everyone, everywhere — with whom you share your unending love. We ask this in the name of all that is holy. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

And Community Shared Reflections

Lee: The theme in today's liturgy is "doing unto others as you would have them do to unto you." What is some of that "doing" and who is involved in our actions every day. In the following first reading, the "doers" are those who are needy and the "helpers" are people and actions of the society and world in which we live... in short, God's people, our brothers and sisters here on this earth.

In our first reading Saint Francis, in his well-known "Prayer," has identified a variety of challenging situations for us and then described the wonderful outcomes that resulted from those actions.

This "Prayer of St. Francis" will be presented — or better "stated"- for us by Kathryn.

Kathryn: Lord, make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, bring your pardon, O God,
and where there is doubt, there is true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope, and where there is darkness only light, and where's sadness, always joy. God, grant that I

may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be misunderstood as to understand, to be loved, and to love everyone with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.

For it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Beth: There is, in Francis's prayer, the popular phrasing of "doing unto others" with a response "...as you would have me do unto you." In the Divine Circle, there is another prayerful phrasing not depending in any way on what I or you or anyone has done to anyone else; it is what God is doing for ME ...and us.

Andrea: This second reading is from the First Book of St. John, chapter 4, verses 7 to 12.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God. And everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. Whoever does not love God does not know God - because God is love. In this way the love of God has been revealed to us: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that He has loved us first, and then sent his Son - an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God has loved us so much, we must also love one another. And if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is perfected in us.

And here is the opportunity for Community member comments.

Profession of Faith

Lee: We believe in the Divine Mystery that is beyond all definition and understanding, the heart of all that has ever existed, that exists now, or that will ever exist in the expanding universe.

Kathryn: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, the human Jesus, an enlightened soul who carried the message of God's Word everywhere and always, who brought the ability to show us how we can heal ourselves and others, and the heart of God's compassion. He is the bright star in the firmament of God's prophets, mystics, and saints. And it is through him that we become a new people. We are here to share his stories of a new message... namely that we are all holy, that we were born holy, and that we shall be holy forevermore.

Beth: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the One that inspires our innermost life, She is the Anointed One present to all those who are searching for meaning and wholeness in their lives. She strengthens our call to follow

Jesus as a vehicle of God's love. She is the one who helps us reach within ourselves so that She can heal and energize us when our spirits may grow weary in our lives.

Andrea: And we believe that God's kin-dom is here and now, stretched out all around us for those with eyes to see it, hearts to receive it, and hands to take it and to share it with those everywhere.

Prayers of the Community

Lee: With heads and hearts mindful of God's unconditional love embedded in each one of us, let us bring our needs and those of our community forward. After each intercession, we respond: Rx Holy One, we offer these prayers.

That those who suffer abuse, may be healed and empowered, we pray. Rx

That those who are bound by hatred, hostility and violence will be set free, we pray. Rx

That the sick may be healed, especially Peg Bowen and all those identified in the Community Book for Prayers, we pray. Rx

That those family members and friends who have gone ahead of us will dwell forever in their heavenly homes, we pray. Rx

And for whom else do we pray at this time (any other intentions...)? Rx

We hold these and all our unspoken persons and intention, we pray.

Gracious Wisdom, you embrace us with your extravagant affection in both the times of our blessedness and our weakness. You are always with us and live in us .. and we live in you, our Blessed One. You are our gift of shalom, our peace. And for this we sing out in joy the blessing that you have given us.

Song: Holy, Holy, Holy (Karen Drucker)

<https://youtu.be/orKBB1j5LZA>

Eucharistic Prayer

Beth: We thank you for the gift of Jesus in history — and the gift of Jesus in faith. Through him, you breathe life into us. His life on earth was deeply moved by his vision of your constant presence in everyone he met, and in everywhere he went. He reflected your being in everything he said and did in his life well lived. And he showed us, by his many examples, not only how we should live, but also for what we might even die —as he did -in the service of the gospel message.

Lee: And when his end-time on earth had come, Jesus - aware of and accepting his destiny - suffered much for the values that he deeply believed, lived and taught... his conviction that love is stronger than death. And then, providing an example of his insight for the understandings of ages to come, he opened wide his arms and died. Then the Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, showed us — in his resurrection - that life is eternal and that love is immortal. Jesus is with us today as we will be through the end of time and beyond. The Spirit that blessed Jesus is, for us, a foretaste of the pascal feast of heaven that awaits all of us as well.

We remember the gift that Jesus gave us on the night before he died. He gathered with his friends to share a final Passover meal. And it was at that supper that Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his friends saying: take this all of you and eat it. This bread is you; this bread is me. We are one body, the presence of God in the world. When you

do this, remember me and all that I have taught you. This is the new and everlasting covenant.

Kathryn: In the same way, Jesus took the cup of wine. He said the blessing and gave it to his friends saying: take this all of you and drink it. This wine is you; this wine is me. We are one blood, the presence of God in the world. When you do this, remember me and all that I have taught you. This is the new and everlasting covenant.

Jesus who was with God "in the beginning of the creation of the heavens and the earth" is with us now in this bread. The Spirit whom the prophets spoke of in history is with us now in this cup. Let us proclaim this mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ lives in us in the world today.

Jesus with us in this, our prayer

Andrea: In memory of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we offer you, God, this life-giving bread and our saving cup, the meal that we brought together today for this Sacred Meal. May all of us who share this sacrament be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit, that Wisdom that moves as freely in our lives today as She did in that of Jesus always.

The Sign of Peace

Beth: Jesus, you said to your disciples, and to us through them, "My peace I give you." We pray that the peace of God will be with all of us here today in this prayerful liturgy.

The Prayer of Jesus

Lee: So let us, now, pray to God with the words that Jesus taught us.

Our God who is in heaven and in all of us here on earth, those who are rich and poor, the well-satisfied and the hungry, the free and the oppressed, the leadership and the marginalized, and everyone together in circles of community and also those who are excluded from their societies.

Beth: May your kingdom come and Your will be done in our actions as we struggle with the complexities of this world and work to confront greed and the desires for power in ourselves in our nation and in the entire global communities of peoples.

Andrea: . the bread that we are called to share, bread that you have given us abundantly, nourishing the health and welfare of all your holy family, everywhere.

Beth: especially for those times that we may have turned away from the struggles of other peoples and countries, and for those times we have thought primarily of our own selves.

Andrea: Strengthen us in times of temptation... the temptation to close our minds, ears, and eyes to the unfair global systems that create ever-larger gaps between the rich and the poor.

The Community Communion

Kathryn: Loving God, you call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice..
. We will live justly.

Loving God, you call us to speak truth to power... We will walk with integrity.

Brothers and Sisters, we have Jesus with us now in the Bread of Life and the Cup of the New Covenant that we have blessed. Let us now eat and drink this Sacred Meal that we have consecrated in this, or liturgy.

Communion Song: There is Only Love by Karen Drucker
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhMTfIRrB7o>

Introductions/Gratitudes/Announcements

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Andrea: May our hearts be glad on our journeys as we dream new dreams and see new visions.

Beth: May we live and work for mercy, peace and justice, in our hearts for ourselves and for our brothers and sisters as well...whoever they are and wherever they may be.

Andrea: May we be the face of God to the world, reflecting a compassionate and caring presence to everyone we meet

Beth: May we all live in the peace of Christ and spread the love and care of Mary, Mother of Jesus, for one another. Let our service continue!

■ Closing Song: Power of Kindness by MaMuse <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ikcyLMAz0k>

MMOJ Involvement Information

If you want to add your intercession to our MMOJ Community Prayer Book, please send an email to: jmeehan515@aol.com.

If you would like to invite another person to participate in our liturgy, please contact: www.marymotherofJesus.org for instructions.

Our new Post Office Box is: Mary Mother of Jesus Catholic Community, 5342 Clark Road, Box #3079, Sarasota, Fl. 34233.