MMOJ Liturgy for Corpus Christi
June 1, 2024

Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community, Sarasota Florida
Presiders: Kathryn Shea and Mary Theresa Streck
Liturgy Readers: Leaders: Mary Montavan and Jack MacKillip
Prayer Readers: Jeanne Schmitt and Joan Pesce
IT Cheryl Brandi

Welcome

Kathryn: Welcome to our Zoom liturgy at Mary Mother of Jesus, an inclusive Catholic Community, where all are welcome. Whoever you are, wherever you are, just as you are, you are welcome here.

Today we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi or the Body Christ. Traditionally this feast has focused on the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine. But the feast of Corpus Christi is about so much more. Each week as we pray the words of consecration we remember our Brother Jesus and we remember that we are the Body of Christ. We are the Love that creates abundance, the Love that allows inclusion, the Love that creates room for everyone at the table.

Let us begin with our Gathering Song: Remember by MaMuse
https://youtu.be/2hGDMygv0wc

Opening Prayer

Mary Theresa: Divine Love, we gather at this fellowship table to remember and celebrate our Brother Jesus. May we be ever aware that we are the Body of Christ believing that through our service and ministries there is grace enough, love enough and mercy enough for all. Amen.

Rite of Transformation

Jeanne: We pause now to remember the times we have not born fruit in caring for self, others, and our planet Earth. Take a moment to recall one missed opportunity, one broken or damaged relationship. (Pause briefly and extend your hand over your heart)
Jeanne and ALL: As we ask for and receive forgiveness, we open our hearts to Infinite Love embracing and healing us. Let it be so! Alleluia!

A Joyful Gloria: Linda Lee Miller and graphics by Rick Miller
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lA5I0nODZI

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Mary M: First Reading: From Richard Rohr, Onening, Volume 6, Number 2

God's major problem in liberating humanity has become apparent to me as I consider the undying recurrence of *hatred of the other,* century after century, in culture after culture and religion after religion.

Can you think of an era or nation or culture that did not oppose *otherness*? I doubt there has ever been such a sustained group. There have been enlightened individuals, thank God, but seldom established groups—not even in churches, I'm sorry to say. The Christian Eucharist was supposed to model equality and inclusivity, but we turned the Holy Meal into an exclusionary game, *a religiously sanctioned declaration and division* into groups of the worthy and the unworthy—as if *we* were worthy!

Eucharist is meant to identify us in a positive, inclusionary way, but we are not yet well-practiced at this. We honestly do not know how to do unity. Many today want to make the Holy Meal into a "prize for the perfect," as Pope Francis observed. Most Christians still do not know how to receive a positive identity from God—that they belong and are loved by their very nature! The Eucharistic meal is meant to be a microcosmic event, summarizing at one table what is true in the whole macrocosm: we are one, we are equal in dignity, we all eat of the same divine food, and Jesus still and always "eats with sinners," just as he did when on Earth.

These inspiring words are from Richard Rohr, and we affirm them by saying, Amen.

Alleluia: Celtic Alleluia by Christopher Walker
https://youtu.be/4cs8NDVM3Vk

Jack: Gospel: A reading from the Gospel of Mark

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

**On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,
when they sacrificed the Passover lamb,
Jesus' disciples said to him,
"Where do you want us to go
and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"
He sent two of his disciples and said to them,
"Go into the city and a man will meet you,
carrying a jar of water.
Follow him.
Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house,
'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room
where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'
Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready.
Make the preparations for us there."
The disciples then went off, entered the city,
and found it just as he had told them;
and they prepared the Passover.**

**While they were eating,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, gave it to them, and said,
"Take it; this is my body."
Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them,
and they all drank from it.
He said to them,
"This is my blood of the covenant,
which will be shed for many.
Amen, I say to you,
I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine
until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."**

These are the words of the Gospel writer known as Mark, and we affirm them with, Amen.

Homily Starter (Mary Theresa)

What did you hear in today's readings? Please share your wisdom with the community.

Statement of Faith

**Jeanne: All: We believe in one God, a divine mystery
beyond all definition and rational understanding,
the heart of all that has ever existed,
that exists now, or that ever will exist.**

**We believe in Jesus, messenger of God's Word,
bringer of God's healing, heart of God's compassion,
bright star in the firmament of God's
prophets, mystics, and saints.**

**We believe that We are called to follow Jesus
as a vehicle of God's love,
a source of God's wisdom and truth,
and an instrument of God's peace in the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The life of God that is our innermost life,
the breath of God moving in our being.
The depth of God living in each of us.**

**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 make it happen.**

Prayers for the Community

Joan P: We pray that the Holy One renew in our hearts our commitment to journey always in faith, hope and love as we reach out and support, comfort and love those closest to us, and all the needs of the people of our earth.

We bring the table all those who are separated from their families because of the horrors of war, the innocent who are in harms way, hungry and often alone, as they struggle for survival.

Response: May peace be embraced by all

We bring to the table the people of Gaza and Israel as we pray for their leaders to negotiate peace agreements.

Response: May peace be embraced by all

We bring to the table the sick and the dying as a result of hunger and violence

Response: May peace be embraced by all

We bring to the table our country riddened by discord, prejudice, racism and leader who continue to put self-interest before the needs of our Nation

Response: May their eyes and ears be open

We pray for one another that we will rise above our disappointment that the Institutional Church has expressed a lack of openness to their need to include all Catholics as equals participants on every level

Response: May their eyes and ears be open

Joan P: We will now share the intentions from our community prayer request.

Pause for individual requests with Response

Joan P: Holy Mystery may we respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers in loving prayer and solidarity. Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Mary T: We are a priestly people. We are anointed. With open hands and open hearts, let us pray our Eucharistic prayer in one voice:

(Eucharistic prayer adapted from the work of Diarmuid O'Murchu and Jay Murnane)

Holy One, we stand at a critical moment in Earth's history – a time when humanity must choose its future.

As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future holds both peril and great promise.

May we recognize that, in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms, we are the Body of Christ, one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny.

United with our vast universe, with our Mother-Planet and her people everywhere, with one another and You, Holy One, our spirits dance and sing this song of praise:

Holy Holy, Holy: Here in This Place by Christopher Grundy
https://youtu.be/uXyu57tR2gk

We give grateful thanks for those who came before us, for all those who gave from their hearts, who gave from their lives, that there might be a better world, a safer world, a kinder world, we pray for peace in their name.

Kathryn: Please extend your hands in blessing

All: This bread and wine is a sign of Your nourishment and a sign of Your great love. Your Spirit is upon us and we belong to You and to one another.

We thank you for Jesus, simple servant, lifting up the lowly, revealing you as God-With-Us, revealing us as one with you, and all creation.

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered for the supper with the people closest to him. Like the least of household servants, he washed their feet. Once again he showed us how to love one another.

Back at the table, he took the Passover Bread, spoke the grace, broke the bread and offered it to them saying, Take and eat, this is my very self.

All: Then he took the cup of blessing, spoke the grace, and offered it to them saying:
Take and drink of the covenant
Made new again through my life in you.
Whenever you remember me like this,
I am among you.

Mary M: Bread and wine is transformed by Your Spirit, and we are transformed when we open ourselves to the very Spirit that is our life. Every time we share this bread and wine we choose to be transformed. We choose to love as You love us.

For it is through living as Jesus lived,
That we awaken to your Spirit within,
Moving us to glorify you,
O Holy One,
At this time and all ways.

Receive the Bread and the Wine and with the words:
******We are the Body of Christ ******

Communion Song: Bread of Life by Rory Corey
https://youtu.be/n7aYkPE5YDE

Jack: Let us pray together the prayer of Jesus:

O Holy One, who is within, around, and among us, we celebrate your many names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, unfolding from the depths within us. Each day you give us all that we need. You remind us of our limits, and we let go. You support us in our power, and we act with courage. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us, now and forever. Amen.
(The Prayer of Jesus as interpreted by Miriam Therese Winter)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, THANKSGIVING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathryn: Closing Prayer

Holy One, may we be ever aware and alert to the new things Your Spirit makes possible in us. As our world unfolds amid pain and beauty may we enter into the fullness of life to which all are called, participating in the wise and wonderful work of co-creation.

Mary T: Blessing

Please raise your hands in blessing.

As we have been blessed by our gathering today, may we be a blessing to others by living generously, graciously and lovingly toward others as the Divine lives within us, making room for everyone, always.

Closing Song: We are the Body of Christ
https://youtu.be/4y75ozYXGrM?si=K0abUel_NcIaTKki

If you would like to add your intercession to our MMOJ Community Prayers book,
Please send an email to jmeehan515@aol.com
If you would like to invite another person to attend our liturgy please refer them to
www.marymotherofJesus.org **where the day's liturgy is found. Zoom instructions are also included there.**

Please send donations to: Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community
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