

Holy Presence Catholic Community  
Morning Prayer, May 20

### *Opening and Invitation*

As a new day comes, O God, open our hearts and minds to your love, your presence, and your grace. We begin in the name of God who is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

“We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.” Acts 2

Lord, open our lips. And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Psalm 100

Acclaim God with joy, all the earth.

Serve God with gladness.

Enter into God’s presence with a joyful song.

Know that our Creator is God.

God made us and we belong to God.

Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise.

Give thanks to God. Bless God’s Name.

God is good with steadfast love which endures forever.

God is faithful to all generations.

Glory be to God, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

## *Words of Confession*

Each morning we are graced with a new day, a new beginning. Let us claim this day.

Loving God, you have created us, know us, and claim us as your own. We ask for your forgiveness and grace for all of the times that we have strayed from your path. We ask for the courage to face our errors and willingness to amend our ways, so that we may rest in the peace that only you can give and be your light in this world. Give us the power to love as you love, and to forgive as you forgive.

### Assurance

Scripture tells us “If we say, we are without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sin, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrong doing.” Accept this truth and continue to walk in the path of love, light, and peace. You are a new creation.

## *The Word of God*

### Psalm 87

God’s foundation is in the holy mountains. God loves the gates of Zion more than all the other dwelling places of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of you, City of God. “I shall mention Rahab and Babylon among those who know Me. Behold, Philistia and Tyre with Cush: ‘This one was born there.’” But of Zion it will be said, “This one and that one were born in her”; and the Most High will establish her. God will count when the peoples are registered, “This one was born there.” Then those who sing as well as those who play the flutes will say, “All my springs of joy are in you.”

#### Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with the women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

#### John 19:25-34

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

The Word of God. Thanks be to God.

## *Creed*

We believe in God, who places joy in our souls, dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts. We believe God wanted gladness to flow like a river, and so created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share.

We believe in Jesus, who turned water into wine, celebrated with outcasts and sinners, and touched the broken so that they could leap and dance. We believe that Jesus opened the doors and set an extra place so we could feast.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who prompts us to smile; who sends us invitations to come and dine; who nudges us to openness and tenderness.

We believe the Spirit is present every time we gather to break bread and is urging us to live joyfully and walk hopefully. Forever, we will live in the embrace of God, and be a witness to resurrection joy. Amen.

## *Prayers*

Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your 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.  
Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever.  
Amen.

Prayer for creation: Creator of all that was, is and will be. Turn our hearts and minds to this beautiful world in which we live. Help us to be good stewards for all the water, air, and creatures of this earth, that we

may preserve what you have gifted us and are able to pass on your creation forever and ever.

Prayer for our nation: Ruler of all, just are your thoughts and your ways. We thank you for the nation we inhabit, for the freedoms it affords us. We ask for your just guidance as we elect leaders. May we honor the truth, seek integrity, and elect those leaders who care for all of creation and treat it and us as holy. We ask for patience, and passion, and the willingness to work for leaders to model your love, grace, and acceptance of all.

Prayer for the sick: We raise up to you, O Comforter, all who are in need of healing – be it emotional, physical, or spiritual. Guide us to that quiet place within where we can gather courage, perseverance and hope for ourselves or our loved ones in need. Surround us with that peace only you can give.

Prayer for peace: Prince of Peace, create in us a spirit of peace. As we hold tightly to this peace, help us to manifest it in our homes, our communities and our world. May our guns be turned into plows, our bombs be turned into bread, and may all hatred and vengeance cease.

### *Canticle of Judith*

I will sing a new song to my God, for you are great and glorious, truly strong and invincible. May your whole creation serve you, for you spoke and all things came to be. You sent forth your Spirit and they were formed, for no one can resist your voice.

Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths; at your presence rocks shall melt like wax. But to those who love you, you continue to show mercy. No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, but whoever loves shall stand in your sight for ever.

Glory be to God, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Light of the world, we come to you with so much to be grateful for.... Grateful for your sustaining grace, mercy, and tenderness. Grateful for a relationship with you that brings light and hope to our lives and the lives of others. Grateful, too, for your unending presence in our lives.

We are grateful for the creation that surrounds and sustains us. The beauty of your trees and flowers, of your seas and mountains. The joy in your creatures – great and small. The wonder of space, the stars; the moon and sun which light our path.

Thank you for the gifts we have been given, the ability to learn and grow in wisdom each day and to deepen our relationship with you; the ability to see your face in every person we meet; the ability to love and be loved, to forgive and to be forgiven.

Thank you God for your everlasting love, for Jesus who makes us a new creation, and for filling our hearts with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

### *Benediction*

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

Thanks be to God.

In the name of our God who is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.