

Holy Presence Catholic Community  
Morning Prayer, May 21

*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 55

Give ear to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my supplication. Listen to my cry and answer me, for my troubles afford me no peace. I am terrified by the shouts of the enemy and the uproar of the wicked. For they inflict troubles upon me, and in their anger they revile me. My heart is filled with anguish, and I am beset by the terrors of death. Fear and trembling overpower me; horror overwhelms me.

I say, “If only I had wings like a dove so that I could fly away and be at rest! I would flee away and seek shelter in the wilderness. I would hurry to a place of refuge, far from the savage wind and tempest.”

Restrain the wicked, O God, and confound their speech, for I see violence and strife in the city. Day and night they make their rounds on

its walls, and within it are iniquity and malice. Destruction is also in its midst; oppression and treachery pervade its streets.

If it was an enemy who reviled me, I could endure that. If a foe had treated me with contempt, I could manage to avoid him. But it was you, one like myself, a companion and a dear friend, with whom I engaged in pleasant conversation as we walked with the festive throng in the house of God.

Let death strike my enemies by surprise; let them descend alive to the netherworld, for evil dwells in their homes and in the depths of their hearts. But I make my appeal to God, and God will save me...I put my trust in you.

James 4:1-10

Beloved: Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. Adulterers! Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Or do you suppose that the Scripture speaks without meaning when it says, The spirit that God has made to dwell in us tends toward jealousy? But God bestows a greater grace; therefore, it says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

So submit yourselves to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw you near. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds. Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before God and you will be exulted.

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, “The Son of God is to be handed over to people and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of God will rise.” But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they remained silent. For they had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to be first, they shall be the last of all and the servants of all.” Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.”

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 Peace: God of Peace, we ask for the weapons of this world be turned into peace. Be they weapons of destruction or words of destruction, we ask that you change the hearts of all who find such weapons an answer to their dilemmas. Focus our attentions on what is good, what is true, and what is beautiful; so we may live in peace, love, and harmony.

Prayer for Refugees: Jesus, you were a refugee on the run from those that would harm you. Fill our hearts with compassion for those who, like you, have needed to flee their homes, their cultures, their very lives. Help us who planted open possibilities for safety and hope for our brothers and sisters, so they may know they are holy, loved, and safe.

Prayer for Water: Jesus, you are our living water. In a world where water is often luxury, help us to create systems that help those who have been suffering without the very necessity of life – water. Teach us ways to share what we have, discover new sources, but to most of all keep the water you have blessed us with safe from pollution.

Prayer for the Arts: God, we give you thanks for all of the artists you have placed in our midst. We are so grateful for their abilities to see

and hear in new ways; for their abilities to give us rest; and to give you praise in all creations. May we who reap what they sow, be supportive, thankful, and grace-filled. May you continue to inspire.

### *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*

I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.

John 16:33

Thanks be to God.

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