

Holy Presence Catholic Community
Morning Prayer, May 24

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 103:1-8

Bless God, O my soul; and all my being, bless God’s holy name. Bless God, O my soul, and forget not all God’s benefits. The One who forgives all your sins is the One who heals all your diseases; the One who ransoms your life from the Pit is the One who crowns you with love and tenderness. The One who fills your years with prosperity also gives you and eagle’s youthful energy.

How you love Justice! You are always on the side of the oppressed. You revealed your intentions to Moses, your deeds to Israel. You are tender and compassionate, O God, slow to anger, and always loving.

James 5:9-12

Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of God. Indeed we call blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of the perseverance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of God, because the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

But above all, my sisters and brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your "Yes" mean "Yes" and your "No" mean "No," that you may not incur condemnation.

Mark 10:1-12

Jesus came into the district of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds gathered around him and, as was his custom, he again taught them. The Pharisees approached him and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him.

He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts God wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

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: As we celebrate this day of remembrance of all that you have created, we give you thanks, O God, for the beauty surrounding us, for the whisper of your presence in the winds; for the sparkling of your meteor showers in the sky; for the crashing of the waves in the sea. Put within our hearts and minds the ways to be good

stewards of all creation. Help us to remember we are co-creators with you in this world.

Prayer for Leadership: O God, we pray for all of those who are in leadership positions. May you grant them all discernment, compassion, and kindness as they lead and make decisions affecting your people. Sustain them in their work and keep their eyes on your ways of justice, light, and truth.

Prayer for Guidance: God, as we move through another day, give us the grace we need to follow your will. May the Spirit of Wisdom be in the forethought of our minds, so we can go where you would send us, and do what it is you would have us do. Guide our choices today so they may be life-affirming, peaceful, and loving.

Prayer for the Human Race: Creator God, you have formed us in our mother's womb, counted the hairs on our head, and know our thoughts before we speak them. Help us to remember that each person we encounter today is also created by you - - purposefully different from us, so together we may paint the colorful tapestry of your beauty in a world that often chooses to fear differences.

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

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

May God lift up countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Thanks be to God.

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