

Holy Presence Catholic Community
Morning Prayer, May 2

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.

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:5

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

Psalm 95: 1-8

Come let us sing for joy to God

Let's shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

Let's come before God's presence with a song of thanksgiving.

Let's shout joyfully with psalms and instruments.

For ours is a great God, and a great Ruler above all gods.

In God's hand are the caverns of the earth, and also the heights of the hills.

God created the sea and has molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before God our Creator.

For we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to God's voice!

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 96

Sing to God a new song! Sing to God, all the earth! Sing to God and bless God’s name! Proclaim God’s salvation day after day, declare God’s glory among the nations; God’s marvels to every people. God is great, most worthy of praise. God is to be revered above all gods. The gods of the nations are nothing, they don’t exist – but God created the universe. In God’s presence are splendor and majesty, in God’s sanctuary power and beauty. Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people; pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God; bring out the offering, and carry it into God’s courts. Worship God, majestic in holiness; tremble in God’s presence, all the earth! Say among the nations. “God reigns supreme!”

The world stands firm and unshakable; God will judge each nation with strict justice. Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that it holds! Let the fields exult and all that is in them! Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy at the presence of God, for God is coming. God is coming to rule the earth, to rule the world with justice and its peoples with truth!

Acts 15:7-21

After much debate had taken place, Peter got up and said to the Apostles and the presbyters, "My brothers, you are well aware that from early days God's choice was made among you, that through my mouth, the Gentiles would hear the word of the Gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by granting them the Holy Spirit just as we received. God made no distinction between us and them, for by faith their hearts were purified.

Why, then, are you now putting God to the test by placing on the shoulders of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they." The whole assembly fell silent, and they listened while Paul and Barnabas described the signs and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles through them.

After they had fallen silent, James responded, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has described how God first concerned Himself with acquiring from among the Gentiles a people for Jesus' name. The words of the prophets agree with this, as is written:

"After this I shall return and rebuild the fallen hut of David; from its ruins I shall rebuild it and raise it up again, so that the rest of humanity may seek out the Lord, even all the Gentiles on whom my name is invoked. Thus says the Lord who accomplishes these things, known from of old."

It is my judgment, therefore, that we ought to stop troubling the Gentiles who turn to God, but tell them by letter to avoid pollution from idols, unlawful marriage, the meat of strangled animals, and blood. For Moses, for generations now, has had those who proclaim him in every town, as he has been read in the synagogues every sabbath.”

John 15:9-11

Jesus said to his disciples: “As God loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept God’s commandments and remain in this love.

“I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.”

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 Simeon

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

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

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Ephesians 3:20, 21

Thanks be to God.

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