

Holy Presence Catholic Community  
Morning Prayer, May 7

*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 138

I offer you thanks, O God, with all my heart; before the “gods” I sing your praise. I bow down toward your holy temple and I praise your name for your kindness and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. On the day I cried out, you answered me and granted strength to my spirit.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God, when they hear the words of your mouth. They will sing of your ways: “How great is the God’s glory!” For though God is exalted, you cares for the lowly, but you remain far distant from the proud. Although I walk in the midst of hostility, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and with your right hand you deliver me.

God will fulfill God's plan for me. Your kindness, beloved, endures forever; do not forsake the work of your hands.

#### Acts 16:22-34

The crowd in Philippi joined in the attack on Paul and Silas, and the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After inflicting many blows on them, they threw them into prison and instructed the jailer to guard them securely. When he received these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and secured their feet to a stake.

About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as the prisoners listened, there was suddenly such a severe earthquake that the foundations of the jail shook; all the doors flew open, and the chains of all were pulled loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted out in a loud voice, "Do no harm to yourself; we are all here." He asked for a light and rushed in and, trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved."

So they spoke the word of God to him and to everyone in his house. He took them in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized at once. He brought them up into his house and provided a meal and with his household rejoiced at having come to faith in God.

#### John 16:5-11

Jesus said to his disciples: "Now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you.

But if I go, I will send her to you. And when she comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to God and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned."

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.