

Holy Presence Catholic Community
Morning Prayer, May 16

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 16

O God, keep me safe – you are my refuge. I said to God, “You are my God; there is nothing good for me apart from you.”

The holy people of my land are wonderful. My greatest pleasure is to be with them. But those who rush after other gods will bring many troubles upon themselves. I will not take part in their sacrifices; I won’t even speak the names of their gods.

You, God, are all that I have, you are my food and drink. My life is safe in your hands. Within the boundaries you set for me there are nothing but pleasant places. What a delightful inheritance I have!

I praise God, who guides me; even at night my heart teaches me. I’m always aware of your presence. You are right by my side and nothing

can shake me. My heart is happy and my tongue sings for joy. I feel completely safe with you, because you won't abandon me; you won't let your loved one see decay. You show me the path to Life; your presence fills me with joy, and by your side I find enduring pleasure.

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Wishing to determine the truth about why Paul was being accused by the Jews, the commander freed him and ordered the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin to convene. Then he brought Paul down and made him stand before them.

Paul was aware that some were Sadducees and some Pharisees, so he called out before the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees; I am on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the group became divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, while the Pharisees acknowledge all three.

A great uproar occurred, and some scribes belonging to the Pharisee party stood up and sharply argued, "We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" The dispute was so serious that the commander, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, ordered his troops to go down and rescue Paul from their midst and take him into the compound.

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage. For just as you have borne witness to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome."

John 17:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, God, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. God, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous God, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

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 Hope: O God, you are always with us. During times when trouble seems our only view, when grief overwhelms us, when we feel alone and unworthy, fill our hearts, minds, and spirit with hope to see us through these times. We also pray, O God, to be a vessel of hope for all those who cannot seem to find it within themselves and to be a beacon throughout our day.

Prayer for Acceptance: God, sometimes our world is so chaotic and filled with injustice, we forget who we are - - beloved children of You. We hear that we are not enough, that we are broken and you are disappointed in us. Remind us this day to accept the truth of who we are – perfectly imperfect, created by you and loved by you just as we are - a holy presence. And God, give us the grace and the gift to share that truth with others.

Prayer for Courts of Justice: God of freedom and justice, we ask for your influence on our Courts. May they seek only truth and justice for all. While political power is pulling and popular opinion is pushing, help these workers of justice stand firm, make right decisions, and hold onto the truth that justice is meant for all. Be they jurors, lawyers, judges let truth be their focus and justice their goal.

Prayer for our Community: Loving God, you have gathered us into communities to support one another, to laugh with one another, to teach one another, and yes, to pray together. We ask for your continued blessing upon our community. Keep us strong in faith, loving

in nature, and welcoming to all who walk through our doors – or on our computer screens. May our praise and glory be always directed at You.

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

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Thanks be to God.

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