

Holy Presence Catholic Community
Morning Prayer, May 17

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 103

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.

Acts 25:13b-21

King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea on a visit to Festus. Since they spent several days there, Festus referred Paul's case to the king, saying, "There is a man here left in custody by Felix. When I was in Jerusalem the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him and demanded his condemnation. I answered them that it was not Roman practice to hand over an accused person before he has faced his accusers and had the opportunity to defend himself against their charge. So when they came together here, I made no delay; the next day I took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought in.

His accusers stood around him, but did not charge him with any of the crimes I suspected. Instead they had some issues with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus who had died but who Paul claimed was alive. Since I was at a loss how to investigate this controversy, I asked if he were willing to go to Jerusalem and there stand trial on these charges. And when Paul appealed that he be held in custody for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar."

John 21:15-19

After Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples and eaten breakfast with them, he said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

He then said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will

stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow 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 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 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 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.