

Welcome the stranger
Orlagh in the City
All are God's Family
May 3rd 2026

Introduction

Entrance Hymn: Mary Most Holy 1:40



Mary most holy, from your hands falling - are heaven's blessings,
hear us now calling;

Teach us to pray and work for God's glory. **Ave Maria, Ave**

Help us to witness, Christ is still living; service to others,
cheerfully giving,

Teach us to pray and work for God's glory. **Ave Maria, Ave.**

Through joy and sorrow, each day's condition, ever dear Mother,
hear our petition.

Teach us to pray and work for God's glory. **Ave Maria, Ave.**

Peruvian Gloria

FIRST READING. Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, so gathering together they said:, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, we suggest you choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; along with Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.
The Word of the Lord.

PSALM: *Round Tables* (Copyright: Sr. Helen Kearins)

*Been a long, long journey, and my heart is yearning
And I won't settle until I've found.
Somewhere I find meaning, equal ways of being
Where the power is shared all around. So I seek . . .*

Response:

**Round Tables,
where we all are able to sit and share our good wine.
Talk our hearts deep longing; See our words shape song in,
Clear voices creating new rhyme.**

*No top nor bottom, let it not be forgotten
Everyone has equality here.
No lines and angles, something more like a bangle
And the end and beginning aren't clear. When we're at . . .*

*Walk in mother, you can too brother,
There is room for everyone here.
Take your place beside us, let no one divide us,
As the circle melts away fear. When we're at . . .
I will sit beside you, but I will not hide you
From the pain that engagement may bring.
I will meet your gaze and we'll create new ways,
For our truth and our passion to ring. We'll
create . . .*

SECOND READING: From Elizabeth Johnson's book, *Truly our Sister* (p.322)

Mary sings her joy in God because the mighty are brought down and the hungry fed: the revolutionary energy of her words inspires the song to go on in countless hamlets and cities where women struggle against their own diminishment and for the flourishing of the world. Her courageous response to the Spirit's call charts lessons of encouragement for both women and men, and nurtures the spirit of the whole community. Faithful to God through all uncertainty, she becomes part of the community's story. Companion in memory, she becomes through solidarity with the struggles of women a companion in hope. She is truly, and subversively, our sister. Here ends the Reading

Alleluia Verse

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give thanks to the Risen Lord,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Sing praise to our God.

GOSPEL: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according **John** (14:1-12)

Jesus said to the disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Place your trust in God, and place your trust in me. There are many places to stay in my Father’s house. If not, would I have told you that I am leaving to get a place ready for you? And if I leave and get a place ready for you, I am coming again and will take you along with me, so you can also be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

“Lord,” **said Thomas**, “We don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you have gotten to know me, you will also know my Father. And—from now on—you do know and have seen the Father.”

“Lord,” **said Philip**, “Show us the Father, and it will be enough for us.”

⁹ **Jesus said** to him, “Have I been with you for so long, and you haven’t gotten to know me, Philip? Whoever sees me sees the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you trust that I am connected with the Father, and the Father is connected with me?

I don’t say the statements I have said to you by myself, but the Father accomplishes these things while staying present with me. Trust me that I am connected with the Father and the Father is connected with me, but if you don’t, then trust these actions of mine. Truly, truly, I’m telling you, whoever trusts me will do the same things that I do, and they will also do more impressive things than these.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Invitation to Lectio

Intercessions

Offertory

WELCOME TO THE TABLE (The Creed)

Gather around for the table is set, Welcome and take your place.
Wide is our circle with Christ at the heart, Sharing our sacred space.

CHORUS:

This is the banquet open to all, Spirit to nourish life.

Here at this meal, here in this place, Gratefully we receive.



Calling forth adults the table to share, Co-celebrating as one.
The gift of each table our daily prayer, The chant of thanksgiving is sung.

CHORUS:

EUCH PRAYER: Mary the Feminine Face of God

1. It is indeed right and fitting that we recall and celebrate the manifold love and wisdom of God, revealed to us down through the ages, as we cherish the sacred memory of Mary in our celebration today.

2. In the evolving story of our universe we see:

- the God who gives birth to every living organism, from the vast galaxies to the tiny specs of dust;
- The God whom our ancient ancestors perceived to be the Great Mother of prodigious fertility;
- The God of the Jewish people envisaged as the Wisdom Woman, endowing our world with empowering wisdom;
- And finally, the God who is birthed forth in the womanhood of Mary, full of grace and full of life.

1. For all that has been birthed forth in our world, through the power of feminine creativity, we unite with all rejoicing hearts, as together we acclaim in song:

**“Let all that is within us cry Holy (x 2)
Holy, Holy, Holy, is the source of our being.”**



2. In the beginning was the seed, sown in the silence of eternal becoming, impregnating with possibility for new life, sprouting forth to fill the empty, fertile places - of our world and of our own hearts.

1. In God’s own time, the Virgin Woman ripens into a fulness that births forth
God’s own fulness in the person of Jesus, and in the liberating power of the creative Spirit.

ALL: That same Spirit we invoke to liberate anew the pregnant possibilities of these earthly gifts of bread and wine that they may become for us the Body and Blood of Jesus, food to sustain us into the fulness of life.

Co-Celebrants: As a mother gathers the family round the table of nourishing love, Jesus calls us too as the first disciples were called, with the invitation of these empowering words: Take this food, all of you, eat and drink, for this is my embodied self, given for you.

Co-Celebrants: After the meal, Jesus took another cup, to empower all gathered at table. Sharing the cup with loved ones, Jesus said: Take this all of you and drink from it. For this is the cup of my life-blood, the life of the new and everlasting covenant. In prophetic solidarity, it is poured out for you and for all. Blessed are we who are nourished in the power of this sacred memory.

Eucharistic Acclamation: **Let all that is within me cry Blessed (x 2)**

Blessed, Blessed, Blessed is the source of our being.



2. The sacred gifts of this Eucharistic table, bread broken and wine poured out, hold for us cherished memories of the God who has birthed so much life into our world, and continues to do so through the women and men of our time.

ALL: In the spirit of our wise and holy God, we pray for receptive hearts that these gifts may appease our inner hunger, and send us forth with greater resolve to feed the hungry peoples of our world today.

1. Held in the loving embrace of Mary, mother of our living faith, may we have the wisdom and courage to birth anew in our world:

- a love that heals the hurts that alienate,
- a justice that breaks down the barriers of division,
- a hope that outgrows violence and despair,
- a joy that uplifts all troubled hearts,
- and a femininity that reawakens our creative vitality.

2. And may we know in our hearts the faith that sustains, the hope that endures, and the love that overcomes all things, reassured as we are in the embrace of our loving and nurturing God.

ALL: With grateful hearts we acclaim our faith and hope in the Holy One: Creator, Liberator, and Holy Spirit, nourishing and sustaining us, this day and forever. Amen.

Hymn After Communion: [A Mhuire nan Gras \(Marie Dunne\)](#) 4:29 min

A Mhuire na ngrás, a Mháthair Mhic Dé, go gcuire tú ar mo leas mé.
Go sabhála tú mé ar gach uile olc, go sabhála tú mé idir anam is chorp.



O Mary of Graces and mother of God'
May I tread in the paths that the righteous have trod.
And mayest thou save me from evil's control,
And mayest thou save me in body and soul.

Go sabhála tú mé ar muir is ar tír, go sabhála tú mé ar lic na bpian.
Gárda na n-aingéal os mo chionn, Dia romham agus Dia liom.



Concluding Prayer: *I Am and WE are!*

*I am the light of the world made new, And together with you my friends.
We bring the light of enduring liberation, From all those trapped in slavish concentration.
And radiate the promise that will every heart renew.*

Behold I make all things new, Together, we can do it, me and you!

*I am the bread to alleviate their hunger, And together with you my friends,
We'll reverse the cruel curse of aching empty bowels, The petrified hopelessness in which starvation howls.
And release the crushed abundance the wealthy oft accrue,*

Behold I make all things new, Together, we can do it, me and you!

*I am the vine and you the branches lush, And together with you my friends,
We'll inebriate the vineyards of parabolic lore, And pour out for all to drink what others hoard in store.
Clean drinking water every country to imbue.*

Behold I make all things new. Together, we can do it, me and you!



Continued

*I am the Good Shepherd attending to the flock. And together with you my friends,
We'll build communities of love and care, An open table for everyone to share,
With justice to the fore in everything we do.*

Behold I make all things new. Together, we can do it, me and you!

*I am the way to truth and life, And together with you my friends,
We'll level out the shoddy pathways of a broken world; To reconcile and heal the many hearts so troubled.
Transcending what divides us, together we'll construe.*

Behold I make all things new. Together, we can do it, me and you!

*I am the Resurrection for new life, And together with you my friends,
Our earth will rise again beyond the shackles and the pain- Of human's crude pursuit of selfish greed and gain.
Cosmic justice in our planet we'll pursue.*

Behold I make all things new. Together, we can do it, me and you!

Prayer for the Road Ahead.

*In these days, when wars rage, genocide goes unchecked, and negotiations
are abandoned, when life-saving medicines and food are withheld as a weapon,
and innocent casualties escalate,
peace feels like a mirage, something almost beyond the horizon.*

In our helplessness, Lord, be with us.

*Remind us when we encounter the suffering of others,
that there is nothing that affects one of us, that does not affect us all.*

*Are we not sisters and brothers, all of us brought to life through your creative Spirit,
all of us your beloved – your creation.*

*Draw us, Lord, to speak truth to power; to stand with the abandoned,
the broken, and the voiceless. Draw us | Lord, to work with you and with each other
to build a better world, a world where each of your children is honoured as sacred.*

A world where PEACE is the language we speak, the air we breathe. Amen.

NOTICES

Recessional Hymn:



Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this worship take leave.
Our sacrifice ended, so now be extended,
The fruits of this Eucharist for all who believe.
The word of God's teaching, our inner souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us.
To work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
The tasks of our everyday lives we embrace.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Including God's people of each tribe and race.
Your feast it has fed us, your light now will lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honour to Christ mid the faith that we bear.

