



Community of St. Bridget
an inclusive catholic experience

Thirty -Second Sunday Ordinary – November 10, 2024

Liturgist: Rose Gordyan



www.youtube.com ...

Suggestion: *Please provide a piece of bread and cup of wine/juice, and a copy of this liturgy so that you can fully participate.*

Welcome to the Community of St. Bridget. Your participation in our liturgy makes this celebration very special. Here the ordinary is sanctified, the human is celebrated, the compassionate is expected.

ALL: Together we make it a holy place with our every act of celebration.

With the flame of St. Bridget's fire, we proclaim the transformative power of God. We give thanks that God's transforming love has been, is now, and will ever be at work within us and in all creation. Christ's Spirit is alive and living among us! May the fire of this light continue to shine! Amen.

Opening Song: ***Be Still and Know*** by Shaina Knoll;

Music and Lyrics: Adapted from the traditional "Be still and know that all is God..." Album: Sunrise is Here: Lyrics: Richard Noll Music: Ferde Grafe'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-fHlueF2eg> (lyric/video – end at 2:09)

Be still and know that all is God
Be still and know that all is God
Be still and know that all is Divine.

Our Scripture readings today focus on love. The willingness to give all that one has becomes the central theme. This week, we have three models of unselfish giving that suggest some rewards to those who are courageous and unselfish enough to give freely. When we decide to commit ourselves in faith, we will

enter into a union with God deeper than anything we have previously known. We may not understand, but must believe and trust in God's mercy. We begin our prayer in the name of the Divine: Source of All Being, Eternal Word and +Holy Spirit. Amen.

Transformation Rite

As we prepare to celebrate this sacred meal, and as we acknowledge all that prevents us from accepting God's loving forgiveness and healing touch, let us be open to the transformative power of our indwelling God:

1. Give us open hearts and minds to receive your word, Jesus, and nurture it to transform our lives for the good of all creation.

ALL: Loving Spirit, come to our aid:

2. Renew our hope in your power to change the hearts and minds of all people so Your message of love, peace and compassion will spread throughout our sphere of influence.

ALL: Loving Spirit, come to our aid:

3. Recalling the failures of past history, may we choose not to repeat them, but inspired by God's word of life bring peace to our family, our nations and our world.

ALL: Loving Spirit come to our aid:

4. Remove from us all that hinders our ability to hear Your voice within and around us so we may make room for Your blessings. Amen.

Gloria

5. Glory to the Spirit of Life, to the Holy One who surrounds us, who lives with us, whose Sacred Word is shared by us in our world.
6. Glory to the Spirit of Life, who offers us peace; peace in our hearts, peace in our thoughts, peace with one another as we reach out to bring that peace to our cities, states, countries and world.
7. Glory to the Spirit of Life, who offers guidance to all of our leaders, both religious and civil who serve our needs in numerous ways.
1. Glory to the Spirit of Life, who sent Jesus, who teaches us how to live the Gospel, who brings hope and healing to all those in need. Amen.

ALL: O Holy One, you are one with us. We strive to be strong in our faith and live life in hope and faithfulness to you, to be committed to the message of the Gospel. We depend upon the ever-present Spirit to walk with us as we journey in the present and rejoice in the life before us.

Opening Prayer: As we gather together may we seek the joy that comes from being in Your presence. Let our hearts be filled with gladness as we lift our voices in song and prayer as we hear your Word proclaimed. We lift up to You our hopes, fears, and needs. May we be strengthened to our call as disciples of the Good News. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD*

We experience the Spirit of Our Living God as we listen to the Scripture readings broken open and shared by all.

First Reading: 1Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the first book of Kings:

So, Elijah went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Could you bring me a little water in a jar for me to drink.” As she was going to get the water, he called out, “And please bring me a piece of bread.” “As YHWH lives,” she replied, “I do not have any bread — only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a couple sticks to take home and make a meal for me and my child. We will eat it — and then we will die.”

Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid! Go home and do what you said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me; and then make something for yourself and your child. For this is what YHWH, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day YHWH makes it rain on the land.’”

The inspired words of a Wisdom Writer. Amen

Responsorial: Proverbs 31:10, 15ab, 16-17, 20, 25a, 26, 29a, 30b-31

Cantor: *She is clothed with strength and dignity.*

A woman’s worth exceeds the value of jewels. While it is still night, women around the world distribute food to their households. **R**

A woman picks out a field and acquires it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard. A woman has had to gird herself with strength; exerting her arms with vigor. Many a woman reaches out her hand to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She is clothed with strength and dignity. **R**

When a woman opens her mouth in wisdom; kindly instruction is on her tongue. Women throughout time have challenged the status quo. Women: know that you bear the image of God. **R**

Acclaim a woman for the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates. **R**

Cantor: 8 Alleluias

Second Reading – Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

A reading from the Good News attributed to Mark:

Continuing to teach, Jesus admonished, “Watch out for religious leaders. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplace. They like to have the most prominent seats in the synagogues and sit at the places of honor at feasts. They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. They will pay greatly for this.” Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and observed the crowd putting money into the temple treasury. Many who were rich threw in large amounts. But a woman, who was widowed and very poor, came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling the disciples, Jesus said, “This woman, poor and widowed, has put more into the treasury than all the others together. They gave out of their wealth. What they gave, they’ll never miss. She, out of her poverty, gave everything; all she had to live on.”

The inspired words of the apostle Mark. Amen.

Cantor: 8 Alleluias

Third Reading: Hebrews 13:1-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

Keep loving one another. Don't neglect hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some have unknowingly entertained angels. Continue to remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. Remember those who are being tortured, since you too have bodies. Keep your lives free from the love of money. Be at peace with what you have. God has said: “Never will I fail you, never will I abandon you,” We say with confidence, “God is my helper, I am not afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

The Words of an Early Church Theologian and Pastor. Amen.

Homily/Reflection: Rose Gordyan

In today’s Scripture the first reading tells of a poor widow who shared her last crust of bread with the prophet Elijah. Was she practicing the faith of her time? Yes, very much so, because she did what is expected of her in the

ancient obligation of hospitality. As a widow in a patriarchal society, she has very few resources to call upon. Through marriage she has left the protection of her father's house; through widowhood she has lost the security of her husband.

The prophet becomes dependent on the most vulnerable member of society. This woman and her son are on the brink of starvation. Despite this she is still required by custom to provide hospitality to whoever approaches her, regardless of the cost to her and her son. This woman did not question the prophet's request for water and she does not resist when asked to feed him. She places his needs before that of her son and herself. Through this request, God provided for the woman and her son.

The prophet assures her with the words, "Do not be afraid." He then explains to her that God will provide for her and her son, just as she has provided for God's prophet. The reason the woman is in this situation is because God had withheld the rain. This depleted her water reserves; flour and oil had also been depleted because the land had not been able to produce anything. As a result, she received a miracle of a year's supply of water, flour and oil until the time when the rains enabling them to rely on nature again. The miracle revealed to the woman that God who lives can and will grant life even in the face of death.

In the Gospel there are two stories. One, Jesus in the Temple taught the people how the religious leaders wear robes and expected to be treated as royals. He also saw that they exploited widow's property by having them deeded to them for prayers. In the second story known as the "widow's mite," the widow offered the smallest coins. The amount was equal to a normal daily wage of an unskilled worker. This was in contrast to others whose large coins made a huge amount of noise going into money containers.

Jesus criticized the scribe's behavior in public. He juxtaposed the giving of the wealthy and the widow. The wealthy gave from their surplus and not from their need. The woman gave what little she had; she gave what she needed. Her total giving implied absolute trust in God.

These readings demonstrate the love and generosity of women who freely trust in God's generosity to them. Never knowing when, how, or what will come to them. Love and generosity to others is heroic. These women were the disadvantaged within the patriarchal societies of which they are members. We also, in our society have gender and class biases that expect women and immigrants to give selflessly to others. As Followers of the Way, we know that often God chooses the weak of the world in confronting the strong. As Followers of the Way, we're taught to love one another and be compassionate and trusting givers.

What words or examples of hospitality help us to continue giving of ourselves to others in faith, generosity and love?

Holding these thoughts in the sacred space among us and strengthened by the support of one another, we now proclaim our affirmation of faith:

Affirmation of Faith

2. We believe that where people are gathered together in love, God is present and good things happen and life is full.
3. We believe that we are immersed in mystery, that our lives are more than they seem, that we belong to each other and to a universe of great creative energies, whose source and destiny is God.
4. We believe that through his mother Mary's resolve, the Spirit of God beat in the heart of Jesus of Nazareth, and God's good news was heard by the broken and wounded.
5. We are glad that the Spirit of peace is present with us, the church, as we gather to celebrate our common existence, and the fidelity of God.
6. And most deeply we believe that in our struggle to love, we incarnate God in the world.
7. And so, aware of mystery and wonder, caught in friendship and laughter, we become speechless before the joy in our hearts as we celebrate the sacredness of life in this bread broken and fruit of the vine poured out to be shared by all. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

1. Glorious God, source and sustenance of life, Redeeming Presence to the pain and brokenness of our world, Holy Spirit who enlivens and energizes all that exists.
2. We ask your healing power upon us, upon our countries, and upon all we pray for today. We now bring to this Table our blessings, cares and concerns. After each request, our response remains:
We awaken to your call.

For whom and for what else shall we pray?

Creator Spirit, we know that you hear the prayers of your people, and all unspoken concerns that we hold in our hearts. In your compassionate love, strengthen our faith so we may believe that with your guidance we can transform our world. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sign of Peace

As we prepare this sacred meal, we reaffirm that just as Jesus was anointed, so is each of us. And so, we celebrate our Creator's fruitful love as we extend our blessings to one another with joy. May the peace that our brother, Jesus, offers, be always with us!

Offertory (raise bread and cup)

We place on our plate the harvest to be won by labor's love. And into the cup we pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from Earth's fruits.

ALL: O Gracious God, giver of the gifts we bring, receive them from all those gathered here today, affirming the sacrament of your Presence among us.

The Holy One is with us, abounding in Love.

3. We open our hearts in Christ, who lives and loves, heals and empowers through us and give thanks to the Source of All Life.
4. O Loving God, you bring to birth the world of our dreams for mutual respect and partnership. Give us courage to act justly and work collaboratively to change systems that keep people poor and marginalized in our society.
5. We thank you for the women and men who are working for justice and equality in our church and world. Your gift of the Spirit gives us hope that one day, through our unselfish work in your vineyard, all will be living in peace and harmony within your kingdom. With thankful hearts in the company of the angels, saints and all souls created in your love. O God of Abundance and Welcome, we praise you in song:

Here in This Place by Christopher Grundy; Album: Come to the Feast; Licensed to YouTube by CD Baby; Broadcast Music Inc. (adapted)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgkWXOSGmOQ> (lyric/video)

Holy One, may your presence here open our minds

may your Spirit among us help us to find
you are rising up now like a fountain of grace
from the holy ground here in this place.
Here in this place.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty
the whole universe speaks of your glory
from the holy ground here in this place.
Here in this place.

6. Creator God, we see around us the work of your hands, the fruit of your wisdom and love. The unfolding story of creation witnesses unceasingly to your creative power. We, your creatures, often deviate from that wisdom, hindering your creative presence in our midst.

7. Sending among us Jesus, our Light and Hope, you birth afresh in our world the power of Sophia Wisdom, and in the gift of the Spirit, your creative goodness blooms anew, amid the variety and wonder of life.

ALL: Spirit of Life, all that exists is blessed and enlivened by your presence. May these gifts of bread, fruit of the vine, and our very lives, be the nourishment we need to sustain us.

1. We remember all the courageous companions who have gone before us, the holy women and men who have lived lives of love and service in the midst of hatred, violence and injustice. They are ever-present with us at this Table of Friendship.

At this gathering, we take bread, as Jesus took bread, and we remember, as Jesus remembered, the constant presence of the Spirit of Life and Love. And Jesus offers this bread to us now, saying: **(All raise bread)**

ALL: *Take and eat, this is my very Self given to you. (pause)*

When supper ends, Jesus takes the cup of blessing, speaks the grace, and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise the cup)**

ALL: *Take and drink this cup of my life-blood, the life of the new and everlasting covenant. It is poured out for you and for all, so that you might be free. Whenever you re-member me like this, I am among you. (pause)*

In sharing this bread and cup, let us embrace the Gospel of justice and peace as we proclaim this mystery of faith:

ALL: Nurtured by your word, nourished by your food; called anew to be your people, we acclaim your praise!

2. As we celebrate this sacred meal, we recall the wise and gracious gifts bestowed on us down through the ages; and we look forward in hope, knowing that You, our wise and faithful God, will continue to endow us with abundant blessings.

(raise bread and cup)

ALL: For it is through learning to live as Jesus lived,
And why he lived,
And for whom he lived,
That we awaken to your Spirit within,
Moving us to worship you truly,
Life-giving God,
At this time, and all time, and in all ways.

Cantor: Amen (x2)

Communion Rite

In the power of this Eucharistic meal, O Divine Spirit, and in union with all peoples, we unite our thoughts and prayers, asking for wisdom and courage:

3. To discern more wisely the Spirit's call to us in the circumstances of our daily lives;
4. To act justly and courageously in confronting the pain and suffering that desecrates Earth and its peoples;
5. To take risks in being creative and proactive on behalf of the poor and marginalized.

(Presider raises bread and cup)

This is the Bread and Cup of Life, through which we are nourished and we nourish one another.

ALL: We receive this bread and cup today as the presence of Christ among us!

All are welcome to receive at our Tables of Friendship!

Communion Meditation: **I Am the One**; Written by: Janis Ian / Miriam Therese Winter
[I am the One Janis Ian lyrics - Yahoo Video Search Results](#) **(no video)**

I am the rays of the rising sun
Snow on the mountains of the moon
The far-flung canopy of stars
The shadows of late afternoon
I am the wisdom of the sage
I am the refuge of all who weep
I am the mother of all who live
I am the promises I keep

Refrain: I am the one who sits with sorrow
I am the one who feels your pain
I am the hope of your tomorrow
When all is lost, I still remain
I am the one who will remain

I am the seed that longs to bloom
The river yearning for the sea
The heartfelt hope of every womb
I am the faith you place in me

I am the silence and the sound
The gentle rain that breaks the stone
I am the dream of love unbound
I am the way that calls you home **R** (x2)

Together, we lift our voices in the Name of Jesus:

6. God of Love, who we experience as mother, father, friend, lover, our deepest longing, our best thought, our solid ground, the sacred soil from which everything grows, our greatest hope.
7. Your love covers Earth, holding us all in your embrace. You hold everything together. We want to know what your vision for the world is—help us. We want to live in that vision – guide us.
1. Everything we eat and drink, everything that gives us life and joy, it all comes from you. We want to thank you for your mercy. You hold nothing back. Help us to be that open and generous with others and with ourselves. Help us forgive each other.
2. Deep in our hearts we believe that this is your world and that you love us all. Help us live with you and with each other in that powerful love. And together we will sing of your mercy and grace and power, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, source of all goodness, you call us to be servants as we build up the kingdom. Transform our hearts and strengthen us in our mission of sharing the Good News and unite us as one human family. We ask this in your name and with the ever-present help of the Holy Spirit, confident that our prayer is heard, and we are held in your loving embrace. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing: *Please extend your hands for our mutual blessing:*

3. Gracious God, we come before You as a diverse group of individuals united in purpose. As we engage in mission and outreach, bind us together in harmony and cooperation. Help us to set aside personal agendas and preferences, focusing on Your kingdom work.
4. Give us hearts of humility and patience to listen and understand one another. Enable us to appreciate our unique gifts and contributions, valuing the diversity You have created. May our unity be a powerful testimony of Your love and draw others to Your saving grace.

Held together by Love Divine, we go forth in love and service to others, clothed with the nature of Jesus our Companion and reinforced by the strength of the +Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Song: ***Joy In Our Hearts*** by Karen Drucker; © 2015 Karen Drucker Released on: 2015-11-07 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5i_CTDc2kM (no video)

Refrain: Peace for all seasons. Love every moment.
Light shines wherever we are. Faith in the darkness.
Hope in the silence. Joy – (sweet) joy in our hearts.

Every day is a choice to show some kindness.
We all are part of one family. So connected our hearts and spirit.
I reach out for you, you reach out for me. **R**

Now is the time to come together, to count our blessings, we are grateful.
We lift our voices in one chorus.
My brothers, my sisters, let's celebrate! **R**

Let's celebrate peace. Let's celebrate love. Let's celebrate light.
Shine, shine, shine! Let's celebrate faith. Celebrate hope.
Let's celebrate joy, joy, in our hearts. **R** (x2)

Thank you for your courage to worship with us in the spirit of equality and justice, and please feel free to **invite a friend to join us** next week.

Know that you are always welcome to worship with us and support this Community with your presence and prayer!

*Today's readings are taken from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary, published by the Women's Ordination Conference, and the Inclusive Language Lectionary from the Quixote Center