



**Community of St. Bridget**  
*an inclusive catholic experience*

**Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time – September 1, 2024**

**World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**

**US Labor Day (9/2)**

Liturgist/Homilist: Mary Eileen Collingwood



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**Suggestion:** Please have a copy of the written liturgy and a piece of bread and cup of wine/grape juice, so you can participate fully in this liturgy.

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Come in. Come into this place that we make special by our very presence. Where the ordinary is sanctified, the human is celebrated, and the compassionate is expected.

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

With the flame of St. Bridget, 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. Amen.

Opening Song: ***All You Works of God***, by Marty Haugen (adapted); © 1989 GIA Publications; video by Mary Theresa Streck

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCTyaOcB4xk> (lyric/video)

**Refrain:** All you works of God, ev'ry mountain, star and tree,  
Bless the One who shapes your beauty, who has caused you all to be  
One great song of love and grace, ever ancient, ever new.  
Raise your voices, all you works of God!

Sun and moon: Bless your Maker!  
Stars of heaven: Chant your praise  
Showers and dew: Raise up your joyful song. **R**

Wells and springs: Bless your Maker!  
Seas and rivers: Chant your Praise!  
Whales in the deep: Raise up your joyful song. **R**

On this day when we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, along with the US Labor Day, we find the readings encompassing the values consistent with the desire of God's heart for the world. Yet they also disclose the religious authorities and individuals who develop traditions counter to “God’s commandment” and care for the human family. It is within this context then that we begin our prayer today in the name of the Divine: Source of All That Is, Eternal Word, and Holy Wisdom Sophia. Amen.

Transformation Rite\*

As we prepare to celebrate our love for Jesus, let us be open to the transformative power of his presence, and that of all creation, in our lives:

**ALL:** We are a sacred cosmos awakening to itself.

1. When will we learn, O lover of all creation, that self-diminishment is not a prerequisite for the Christian life?

**ALL:** We are a sacred cosmos awakening to itself.

2. You do not ask us to drag around our sad sack of sins, raising clouds of dust in our footsteps for all to see; and you do not ask us to do one more wretched thing from guilt—particularly, serve you.

**ALL:** We are a sacred cosmos awakening to itself.

3. When will we learn, O Tender One, that all you ask is for us to open our hearts and to love this precious planet with the love in your sacred heart?

**ALL:** We are a sacred cosmos awakening to itself.

4. Here, now, we stop running from the obvious—we are: Love enfleshed, Love wounded, Love crazed, Lovesick, and all that you ask is for us to stop whatever it is we think we’re doing and be who we are:

**ALL:** We are a sacred cosmos awakening to itself,

5. The mind of the planet fetching a new future, your heart pulsing with possibility. Amen.

Gloria: **Praise, Give Glory to God** by Denise Pyles on *Creation of Love*, © 2010-03-19.  
<https://youtu.be/tA22QokvwPA?si=1gXks20MeRTt-8UC&t=25>

**(no video; begin 0:25)**

Praise, praise, give glory to God! Nations, peoples, give glory!  
Strong the love embracing us, faithful our God forever.  
Alleluia, alleluia! (x3)

### Opening Prayer\*\*

Holy One, we open now to the great Mystery of Life, knowing this adventure to be a journey back to the ever-present source—discovered in our own depths—and a forward journey toward a new reality, a new understanding, which is being born through us, and know above all and below all that this is not a path to God, but a path in God. And we celebrate this great adventure. 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:** Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy:

Moses told the people: “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live, and may enter and take possession of the land that Adonai, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of Adonai, your God, you must not add to nor subtract from that which I am giving you.

Observe them carefully, and demonstrate your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this is a wise and intelligent people.’ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as Our God is to us when we call? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole Law that I set before you today?”

The inspired words of an ancient biblical writer. Amen.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 15: 1-5

**Cantor:** *Those who do right will dwell with God.*

God, who may dwell in Your sacred tent, live upon your holy mountain? Those who walk without blame, do what is right, speak truth from the heart, and keep the tongue in check. **R**

Those who do not harm a friend, or discredit a neighbor; those who despise the despicable, but honor those who honor God. **R**

Those who are true to their word, even at a high price; those who lend without interest, and accept no bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things can never be shaken. **R**

**Cantor:** Alleluias

**Second Reading - Gospel:** Mark 7: 1-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel attributed to Mark:

Religious leaders and lawyers who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (The religious leaders, and Judeans in general, do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition handed down to them by their ancestors. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they purify themselves through this washing. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

The religious leaders and lawyers asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” Jesus replied, “Isaiah was right in prophesying about you hypocrites. As it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; denying that their teachings are of human origin.’ You have let go of the commandment of God, yet you hold on to human traditions.”

Jesus continued, “You set aside the commandments of God to uphold your traditions! Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother should be killed.’ But you say anyone can tell their father or mother, ‘Whatever support you were to have from me is now Corban’ (that is, an offering to God). You excuse them from caring financially for their father or mother because you gain from it! You void the word of God by this tradition that you hand on. And you do many things like this.”

Jesus called the crowd together again and said, “Listen, everyone, and take this to heart. Nothing outside a person can defile by going inside a person. The things that come out of a person are what defile.”

After Jesus had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. “Do you also fail to understand?” Jesus asked. “Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” Jesus continued, “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come — obscenity, theft, murder, betrayal, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

The inspired words of the evangelist, Mark. Amen.

**Cantor:** Alleluias

**Third Reading:** James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the Letter of James:

Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Creator of the heavenly luminaries, who cannot change and is never in shadow. God willingly gave birth to us with a word spoken in truth, so that we may be, as it were, the first fruits of God’s creatures.

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you because it has power to save you. But act on this word—because if all you do is listen to it, you are deceiving yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of our Abba God, the Creator, is this: coming to the aid of widows and orphans when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by this world.

The inspired word of the apostle, James. Amen.

Shared Homily: Mary Eileen

My friends, the desire of God’s heart for the world is to open our hearts to love.

The Holy One is always near—near in spirit, near in mind, near in body. We were birthed through the Word spoken in truth. Our Creator brought us into being by intentional thought and Word.

When we truly realize this and take it into our hearts, one cannot know the truth and not act. To only listen and do nothing is deception at the most personal level. Acts that counter the care for the human family only contaminate this world with falsehood, and spirals us downward on a darkened path of despair. Only our labors of love will reverse this trend.

Yet, as our faith declares, our future awaits—it will be born through us with hearts pulsing with possibility.

In our liturgical prayer of consecration, we declare that God’s Covenant with the Chosen People is made new again through Jesus’ life in us. Jesus gave us a vision for a kindom of love and life, a stronger faith, a promising life-giving future. This is the sustenance by which we flourish.

And, as Amanda Gorman states so beautifully, “*The new dawn blooms as we free it, for there is always light.*” And that light, that spark of the Divine, lives in us and acts with us—to focus our hearts in love and care for all of creation. We are the first fruits of God’s desire. And it is our Creator’s desire that we are called forth to fulfill.

*What will we name as our first fruits of faithful observance to this Divine desire that all live and love in harmony with this wondrous creation in which we find ourselves?*

*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

O Holy One, Creator of this vast universe:

6. We believe that you are not far from us, and that your loving care is shown in the life, ministry, death, and continued presence of Jesus, the Christ, whom you sent to show us the way to your living presence.
7. We believe that each of us is called to continue your presence and your work in this world by loving and caring for one another.
1. We believe that no one is beyond the reach of your love, and so no one should be beyond the reach of our caring. We believe that you call us to be one with you and with one another.
2. We believe that we have in our hearts the grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to live fully in your love when we are open to you.
3. We believe that you pardon our weaknesses and use them to teach us how to come to you. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus in our lives, and life everlasting in your Divine Presence.

4. May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable us to live as we believe, in harmony with one another so that with our hearts and voices and lives, we may glorify the God who names us and calls us to live in the fullness of being. Amen.

#### Prayer of the Faithful

Knowing our God is faithful, generous, and abiding, let us bring to this Table our cares and concerns—for ourselves, our loved ones, and our world. Our response is: ***We awaken to your call.***

*For whom and for what shall we pray?*

Eternal Source of Life, help us discover how we can be most useful, for we long to see a world where there is joy, where it is safe to live, and where everyone belongs. Show us the way to nourish one another. Empower us to co-create this world as you intend it to be. 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 blessing to one another with joy. May the peace that our brother Jesus offers be always with us!

#### Offertory (All 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 the Earth's fruits.

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

#### Prayer Over the Gifts

O Holy One, in these gifts you give us food for body and spirit. May our strength be renewed by your generous blessings that will bring us health of mind and body. Amen.

The Holy One is with us, abounding in Love!

5. Giving thanks to the Source of All Life, we open our hearts in the name of Jesus, who lives and loves, heals and empowers, through us.

6. We praise you, O God of wonder and life, as we celebrate Jesus' life and ministry and as witness to the life of compassion and love we are all called to live. We now lift up our hearts with the choirs of angels:

**Holy, Holy, Holy** Christopher Grundy; CD: *Stepping In* © 2012.

<https://youtu.be/GUm2bEGB2dU> (no video)

Holy, holy, holy God of love and justice  
The whole universe and everything beyond it,  
Every galaxy and flower,  
Every singing bird and falling drop of rain  
Is ablaze  
With your glory, glory, glory!  
O, God most wonderful.  
Blessed is the One who comes in your name!  
Hosannah! Hosannah!

7. 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.

1. 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 and fruit of the vine, and our very lives, be the nourishment we need to sustain us in our time of need.

2. As a Christian people we celebrate the Open Table, proclaimed by Jesus our liberator and our friend, a Table of abundant life, inclusive love, and liberation, where all are welcome, and from which no one is to be excluded.

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 it to us now, saying: **(All raise bread)**

**ALL:** *Take and eat, all of you.*

*This is my very Self which I give to strengthen you.*



Jesus then raised a cup of blessing, spoke the grace, and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise cup)**

**ALL:** *Take and drink this Cup of Life, the Covenant made new again through my life in you. Whenever you remember me like this, I am among you.*

We give thanks for who we are in Christ:

**ALL:** Matter becomes conscious, the universe coming to reflect on itself: earthen vessels that hold a treasure, Temple of God's Spirit, the Body of Christ.

**(All 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!

### Communion Rite

We pray as these gifts are shared among us:

3. Loving God, you call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice.  
*We will live justly.*
  
4. Loving God, you call us to be your presence in the world. *We will love tenderly.*
  
5. Loving God, you call us to speak truth to power.  
*We will walk with integrity in your abiding presence.*

**(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 fruit of the vine as the presence of Christ among us!

*All are welcome to receive at our Tables of Friendship!*

Communion Meditation: **This Body is Holy**, Words and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan © 2018 Worldmaking.net (ASCAP)

[https://youtu.be/\\_agym1j2jNQ?si=mqBfi1Jg0erIZNzv](https://youtu.be/_agym1j2jNQ?si=mqBfi1Jg0erIZNzv) (lyric/video)

Time for working, time for play, time for rest  
Sacred Rhythm, night and day, fully blessed

**Refrain:** This body is holy, holy, holy (x2)

Single body, many parts, pure, diverse  
Each a holy work of art. We're the church. **R**

Whole in all our different roles ringing true Tending  
body, mind and soul to renew.  
This body is holy... This body is holy... **R**

Together we lift our voices in the Name of Jesus:  
(Miriam Therese Winter, MMS, adapted)

6. O Holy One, you are within, around and among us. We celebrate your many names. Your wisdom come; your will be done, unfolding from the depths within us.
7. Each day you give us all that we need.  
You remind us of our limits, and we let go.  
You support us in our power, and we act with courage.
1. For you are the dwelling place within us,  
the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us, now and forever.  
Amen.

Closing Prayer (in honor of Labor Day)

Excerpt from *A Hill We Climb*, by poet laureate, Amanda Gorman:

...Let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.  
With every breath... we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.  
We will rise from the golden hills of the west.  
We will rise from the wind-swept north-east...  
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states.  
We will rise from the sunbaked south.  
We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.

In every known nook of our nation, in every corner called our country, our people, diverse and beautiful, will emerge, battered and beautiful. When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it. Amen.

### Announcements

Blessing – *Please extend your hands to bless one another:*

May the Divine Light nurture our dreams.  
May we unfurl the ribbon of light that is the Divine within us.  
May our light shine for all to see, and  
May we be a blessing in our time! Amen.

1. Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.  
As we do, may we embrace the challenges of our lives and of our world.
2. We go in peace, embraced by the light and warmth of our gathering.  
We go in love, ready again to journey onward.

**ALL:** We go into this week, held together by the love of God, clothed with the nature of Jesus our Companion, and reinforced by the strength of the +Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Song: **Micah 6:8**, by Charlie Hall; © 2006 Sparrow Records/sixstepsrecords  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og3fP5ZjoaY> (no video end at 1.45)

You could feed the whole world with the crumbs of old bread  
Spread the good news through dreams and stones  
With a breath of Your wind You could raise up the dead  
But You ask us to go **R**

**Refrain:** Help us love mercy; Help us do justly;  
Help us walk humbly with You, God

Forget not the widow, the orphan and slave  
God please remember the helpless today  
Call on Your children repairing the breach  
There's no place too far that Your mercy can't reach **R**

***Thank you for your courage to worship in a spirit of equality and justice!***

***You are welcome to join us again—and to invite a friend—to support  
this Community with your presence and prayer.***

\*Adapted from “The Pulse of Possibility” by Bruce Sanguin in *If Darwin Prayed*.

\*\*Adapted from “Holy One, Holy Oneness” by Bruce Sanguin in *If Darwin Prayed*.

\*\*\*The Responsorial and Gospel readings come from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary made available through the Women’s Ordination Conference. The First and Third readings come from the Inclusive Catholic Lectionary, Quixote Center, MD.