



Liturgy to Celebrate Justice,
Partnership and Equality for
Women in Church and Society

GATHERING SONG AND GREETING

Prsident: In the name of God, our mother and father,
and of Jesus our brother and healer, and of the Holy
Spirit, our wisdom and guide. **ALL: Amen.**
Prsident: May God, the Blessed Holy Three, be with
us as we work together for partnership, justice and
equality for women in church and society!
ALL: And also with you.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Prsident: O God, may we see your feminine face in
our female ancestors and in all women. **ALL: May we
open our hearts, like Mary, to God's mothering
love.** **Prsident:** Jesus the Christ, may we see the
divine reality in the person of a woman especially in
women who have been abused and exploited. **ALL:
May we like Mary, champion the oppressed and
stand with our sisters who are abused and
exploited.** **Prsident:** O Wisdom/Sophia, may we see
you in men and women who have been caring partners
and companions. **ALL: May we, like Mary, live a
connectedness and friendship with others.**
Prsident: May the God of love, forgive us our lack of
trust in your Spirit Sophia moving with us, in us, and
through us, leading us to guidance, courage, healing and
empowerment. **ALL: Amen.**

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and peace,
justice and equality to God's people on earth. O
loving God, in the name of the Holy Three-in-One
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you
for your glory. O Jesus Christ, holy Child of our
God, You who liberate and heal us: have mercy on
us. You, who are all Goodness and Light, hold us
in your heart forever. For you are the Holy One;
you are our liberator our healer, our strength, O
Blessed Holy Three: Jesus Christ; with the Holy
Spirit, in the glory of God. Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 58:5-8
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 6:2
Second Reading: John 13:34-35
Gospel Acclamation: ALLELUIA! (sung)
Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke
1:39-56 **ALL: Glory to you O God.**

Reader: The good news of Jesus, the Christ!
ALL: Glory and praise to you, Jesus the Christ!

HOMILY

**Profession of Faith: ALL: We believe in God who
is creator and nurturer of all. We believe in Jesus,
the Christ, who is our love, our hope, and our light.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of
Wisdom Sophia, who energizes and guides us to
build caring communities and to challenge
oppression, exploitation and injustices. We believe
that God loves us passionately and forgives us
everything. We believe that we are radiant images
of God who calls us to live fully, love tenderly, and
serve generously. We believe in the communion of
saints our heavenly friends, who support us on
life's journey. We believe in the partnership and
equality of women and men in our church and
world. We believe that all are one in the Heart of
God. We believe that women's liberation is human
liberation. Here we dwell in loving relationships.
Here we live our prophetic call of Gospel equality.**

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Prsident: Aware that God, like a fierce mother bear,
who protects her young, is a defender of the oppressed
and pursuer of justice, we now bring the women and
men in our lives, in our church and world, before you.
Response: Loving God, hear our prayer.
Prsident: For those who have been abused, we pray
for empowerment. **R. Prsident:** For those who have
confronted their abusers, we pray for courage. **R.**
Prsident: For those who have been sexually exploited,
we pray for healing. **R. Prsident:** For the men and
women who have been caring friends and partners, we
pray for their continued growth and well being. **R.**
Prsident: In your name we pray that we can do all
things by the power of your Spirit working in us.
ALL: Amen

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Prsident: Blessed are you, O God, Creator of all.
Through your divine providence we have this bread to
offer, it will become for us the Bread of Life.
ALL: Blessed be God forever. Prsident: Blessed
are you, O God, Creator of all. Through your divine
providence we have this wine to offer, it will become
our spiritual drink. **ALL: Blessed be God forever.**
Prsident: Nurturing God, we are united in this
sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ in communion
with Mary, who proclaimed God's power and mercy for
the lowly and oppressed. Like Mary, may we discover
the liberating power of Woman-Spirit in our midst. We
ask this through Wisdom Sophia, Jesus, our brother,
and the Holy Spirit. **ALL: Amen.**

Prsident: God dwells in you. **ALL: And also with
you. Prsident:** Lift up your hearts and pursue justice.
ALL: We lift them up to God, Pursuer of Justice.
Prsident: Let us give thanks to the Creator of all.
ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Part One: O loving God, O blessed Holy Three, who
brings to birth the world of our dreams for mutual
respect and partnership, we do well always and
everywhere to give you praise. Give us courage to act
justly and work collaboratively to change systems that
keep people poor and marginalized in our society. We
thank you for the women and men who are working for
justice and equality in our church and world. Each day
you embrace us in a circle of love; your spirit dwelling
in us immerses us in the depths of your cosmic
presence and gives us the hope of everlasting joy with
you. Your gift of the Spirit, who raised Jesus from the
dead, gives us hope that one day all will be one at the
eternal banquet of heaven. With thankful hearts in the
company of the angels and saints, we praise you, God
of Abundance and Welcome.

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy God, God of strength and
light. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are all who come
in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.**

Part Two: You are holy indeed O nurturing God. You
are the Heart of Love. You affirm women's bodies as
holy and women's stories as sacred. Pour out your

Spirit upon all who work for justice and equality for women in church and society. Pour out your spirit upon this bread and wine so that with these gifts we may become the body and blood of Jesus, the Christ, in whom we have all become your daughters and sons.

(please all extend hands as we recite the concentration together)

On the night before he died, Jesus came to table with the women and men he loved. Jesus took bread and praised you, God of compassion. He blessed and broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said:

ALL: "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, Jesus poured the final cup of wine and blessed you, God the Creator. Jesus shared the cup with his friends, and said: **ALL:** This is the cup of the covenant of my love poured out for you. As often as you drink of it, remember me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ, our love, has died in all those abused and exploited, Christ, our hope, is risen in all who work for justice and equality, Christ, our liberator, will come again in a renewed humanity.

Part Three: In memory of Jesus, who showed us the path to liberation and empowerment, we offer you, Loving Creator, the bread of life, this saving cup. We give thanks for the loving relationships that helped us grow more aware of our goodness, strength, and passion. We give thanks that we live in your Enfolding Presence and serve you with grateful hearts. May we be advocates for survivors of violence, abuse, and rape. May we accompany them on their journey to empowerment, forgiveness, and wholeness. May all of us who share in this sacred banquet of Christ be brought together as one in the Holy Spirit and be filled with courage to live Gospel equality in inclusive communities working for justice and peace in our church and world.

Part Four: God, remember your holy people throughout the world, make us one in love, together with Benedict our pope, _____, our bishop(s), and all God's people. Remember our brothers and sisters who are homeless, hungry, sick, lonely, in prison. Remember our sisters and brothers, who face

oppression, discrimination and joblessness, who have lost homes, partners, and hope. Remember all those who work for justice and who have given their lives for the needs of people who suffer injustice, and who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again, _____ *(name and invite community to name others)* bring them and all the departed into your everlasting arms.

Part Five: Have mercy on us all; make us one with Mary, Mother of Jesus, our sister and champion of the oppressed, and the apostles through the ages, especially Mary of Magdala, Junia and Andronicus, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Bishop Oscar Romero, Ita Ford, and all the holy women and men who have done your will throughout the ages. May their courage inspire us to confront patriarchal systems that discriminate against women. God, let it be so as we praise you in union with the holy women and men of every generation who are free at last from all bondage and injustice, and give you glory through Jesus the Christ.

ALL: Through Christ, With Christ and In Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, may our work for justice, peace and equality give You glory and honor, Holy God forever and ever. AMEN.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

ALL: Our Father and Mother...

Presider: Protect us, God, from all evil and dismiss all anxiety from our minds. May a thousand angels guide our steps to live justice, partnership and equality now as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of God in our time where all can say, "thank God, we are free at last!"

ALL: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SIGN OF PEACE

Presider: Jesus, the Christ, You said to your disciples, "My peace I leave you. My peace I give you." May the love of God fill us with peace. May the healing power of Christ strengthen us. May the Holy Spirit empower us. **ALL: Amen.** **Presider:** May the peace of God be always with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

LITANY FOR THE BREAKING OF BREAD
ALL: Loving God, You call us to speak truth to power, have mercy on us. Loving God, You call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice, have mercy on us. Loving God, You call us to be Your presence in the world. Grant us peace.

Presider: This is Jesus, who called women and men to be partners and equals, and who liberates, heals and transforms us and our world. All are invited to partake of this sacred banquet of love. **ALL:** Jesus you make us worthy to receive you and become you for others. We are the Body of Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: The encompassing of God be on us, the encompassing of the God of healing, the encompassing of Christ be on us, the encompassing of the Christ of love, the encompassing of the Spirit be on us, the encompassing of the Spirit of Grace, let us go forth from this Banquet of Love, aware always that human rights are equal rights and that we are all the beloved of God. *(Adapted from Alexander Camilleri's Cantina Cantina)* **ALL:** Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Presider: Our God is with you.

ALL: and also with you.

BLESSING

(everyone please extend your hands in mutual blessing)
ALL: May the fire of God's love warm our hearts. May God grant our prayers for justice and equality in our church and world. May the love of Christ fill us and radiate through us forever.

DISMISSAL

Presider: Go in the peace of Christ. Let the service for justice and equality continue!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Bridget Mary MechansSofrahmm@aol.com 703-505-0004

Janice Severe-Duszynska

thythmsofhcedance@gmail.com 859-684-4247

Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests

<http://bridgetmarys.blogspot.com/>

www.arcwp.org

