



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

**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 16-17, 2024**

Liturgist: Mary Eileen Collingwood



Freepik: apocalyptic event

**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: **O Holy One** Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and the River's Voice © 2004  
Worldmaking.net

<https://youtu.be/Dnq4Llj-rwI?si=OUwEEEmEJ6D1dQbm4> (no video)

O Holy One, we gather in Your presence.  
O Living One, we welcome all to hope.

**Refrain:** You are our God (You are our God)  
We are Your people (We are Your people) (x2)

O Holy One, the Covenant of history  
O Living One, we live and move in You. **R**

Amen (Amen)

Today, we celebrate the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our readings today awaken our hearts and minds to be alert to the presence of hope—alert to the coming of God’s hand in our troubled world. As fire kindles brushwood and causes water to boil, so we await to be set on fire with hope and gospel passion. And so we begin our prayer in the name of the Divine: Source of All That Is, Eternal Word, and Holy Wisdom Sophia. Amen.

Transformation Rite (adapted from a prayer by Simone Campbell)

As we hope for the holy transformation of our lives, our church, our countries and our world, we lift up our hearts as we pray:

1. O Divine Spirit, during these days, stir our hearts and minds that we might fight for a vision that is worthy of You and your call to honor the dignity of all of your creation.
2. A vision of who we are as a people, grounded in community and care for all, especially the most marginalized.
3. A vision that cares for Earth and heals the planet.
4. A vision that ends structural racism, bigotry, and sexism so rife now in our church, our nations and in our history.
5. A vision that ensures hungry people are fed, children are nourished, immigrants are welcomed.
6. O Spirit, breathe in us and our leaders a new resolve... that committed to this new promise, we will work together to build communities grounded in healing, fearlessly based on truth, and living out of a sense of shared responsibility.
7. In the name of all that is holy, O Spirit, bring out of this time of global chaos in our church and nations a new creation, new communities that can-- with your help-- realize this promise that we affirm with profound hope. Amen.

We now raise our voices as one, giving glory to the Holy One:

Gloria: **Praise, Give Glory to God** by Denise Pyles on *Creation of Love*, © 2010-03-19.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tA22QokvwPA> (no video; begin 0:20)

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

### Opening Prayer

Spirit of our Living God, walk with us this day as we are reminded of the chaos and drama that occurred in the past and is reoccurring in our present times across the globe. Help us hold on to the hope that Jesus instilled in his followers so that we may regain our bearings and glimpse a purpose that will guide us through these troubling times for your holy people. 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:** Daniel 7: 13-14, 12: 1b, 3

A reading from the Book of Daniel:

I, Daniel, had many visions during the night. As they continued, I saw One like a human figure coming with the clouds of heaven.

When the figure reached the Ancient of Days and was presented, they received dominion, splendor, and the power of a ruler. All nations, peoples and tongues would serve this one, whose dominion is everlasting and shall not pass away. The dominion of this One shall not be destroyed.

... A messenger from God, the human figure, spoke to Daniel in a vision:

“A time of unsurpassed distress is coming, a time of anguish such as has never been known since nations first came into existence.

“Yet, the wise will shine brightly, like the splendor of the heavens. Those who have guided the people to justice, will shine like the stars forever.”

The inspired vision of a Judean Sage and Prophet. Amen.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 83 (Nan Merrill, adapted)

**Cantor:** *Do not be still, O Giver of Life!*

O Great Creator, do not keep silent.  
Do not withhold your peace or be still, O Giver of Life.  
For fear is rampant in the world.  
Those who rule by oppression rise up with power.  
They lay deceptive plans against the people.  
They consult together against freedom and justice. **R**

Crafty words belie intent  
as thousands reap dire consequence.  
Nations go to war and the innocent suffer.  
Yes, they conspire with one accord;  
against Love they make a covenant.  
No institution is free from the insidious arm of corruption. **R**

Who will succor the homeless, the orphans, the starving,  
those cast aside by decisions based on greed?  
Who will speak up on their behalf? **R**

**Cantor:** Alleluias

**Second Reading - Gospel:** Mark 13: 1-32

A reading from the Holy Gospel attributed to Mark:

As Jesus was leaving the Temple, one of his disciples said, “Look, Teacher, what large stones! What grand buildings!” Then Jesus asked, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another. All will be thrown down.

Later, when Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, across from the Temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew questioned him when they were by themselves. “Tell us, when will this be? What will be the sign that all these things are about to happen?” Then Jesus told them, “Beware that no one deceives you. Many will come using my name and say, ‘Here I am’. They will mislead many through deception. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This is something that must happen; but the end is still to come. Nation will fight against nation, and empire against empire. There will be earthquakes in various places; and there will be famines. This is the beginning of birth-pangs.

“You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me, you will stand before governors and rulers as witnesses. For the gospel must first be preached to all. Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what you are going to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

“When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong, let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. Let no one in the field go back to get their coat. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that this will not take place in winter,

because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.

At that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, over there!’ do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will appear. They will perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the chosen ones. So be on your guard. I have told you everything ahead of time.

“At that time, people will see the Human One coming in clouds with great power and glory. Angels will be sent to gather the chosen ones from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the cosmos.

“As for that day or hour, no one knows it, neither the angels in heaven, nor the one born of God, but only God and God alone.”

The inspired words attributed to the evangelist, Mark. Amen.

**Cantor:** Alleluias

**Third Reading:** Hebrews 10: 32-39

A reading from the Book of Hebrews:

Remember the days past when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a great contest of suffering. At times, you were publicly exposed to abuse and affliction. At other times, you associated yourselves with those so treated. You even joined in the sufferings of those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, knowing that you had a better and lasting possession. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence! It will have great recompense. You need endurance to fulfill the desire of God’s heart and receive what God has promised:

*“For, after just a brief moment,  
the one who is to come shall come, and shall not delay.  
The just shall live by faith.  
I take no pleasure in those who draw back.”*

We are not among those who draw back and perish, but among those who have faith and will possess life.

The inspired words of an Early Church Pastor.

Shared Homily: Mary Eileen

Oh, what a night! The eve and early morning hours that followed ushered in some real fear and shock in the citizens of the United States, as well as around the globe. *Hannibal Lector*, the greatest villain in American cinema, now

becomes the elected leader of the country. Oh, what a night! Perhaps today's readings of the end times can bring light to the darkness that looms about us.

In our first reading from the book of Daniel, the Human One appears and ushered in times of great distress followed by lasting peace. The same title came to be used to identify Jesus. By the time Jesus did arrive, the name carried with it both a prophetic and apocalyptic connotation.

Typically, the apocalypse refers to the end times that brings with it destruction of great magnitude. Yet it is through eyes of faith that we realize that these hard times are the beginnings of birth-pangs—the suffering we endure that is necessary to birth new life.

Indeed, the book of Daniel definitely stands in direct relationship with Jesus' portrayal in the Synoptic Gospels.

Mark's gospel envisions the coming of the Human One - Jesus' apocalyptic return and his prediction of the Temple destruction. He tells the disciples what signs to look for that will signal this disaster. This story is thoroughly apocalyptic, yet so very contemporary. It's not a coincidence that these signs also appear in our world today—deception, wars, earthquakes, famine, to name a few. We know clearly that no institution ever existed or will ever exist without escaping the insidious arm of corruption.

We believe that our God *is* the Covenant, the Promise of our sacred history. A promise we affirm every time we pray together with profound hope. For the wise among us, the presence of Wisdom will shine brightly. We count ourselves among those who have faith and possess life. God's Spirit leads us to an unselfish and compassionate way of living.

We must do and proclaim what the Spirit speaks through each and every one of us. Listening to one another and experiencing the Spirit's voice among us will support our calling to represent truth and justice. Our confidence will be made strong in a community that will foster the endurance needed to carry us through these desperate times.

Within the early church, it was the book of Hebrews that functioned to give permission for leaders of their house church communities to be true centers of faith—an invitation to them to flourish.

The Community of St. Bridget, our small faith community, offers this same oasis for its members in our current apocalyptic time—a time that shows its face in corrupt governments, displaced peoples, ongoing warfare, the death of innocents, starvation, and climate changes that result in fires, floods, and homelessness.

May we continue to be faithful and shine brightly as a sign of hope in the Promise—the Covenant—made between God and God’s holy people.

*Please feel free to share your thoughts.*

*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

1. We have faith  
in one God, one Source of all life,  
one Ground of the whole Earth,  
who created all things good.
  
2. And we have faith  
in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to  
bear God’s likeness in working and caring for Creation,  
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,  
in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.
  
3. And we have faith  
in God’s Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and  
compassionate life-style.  
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,  
her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.  
So be it. 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!

4. 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.
  
5. 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: **Not To Us Hallelujah**, by Richard Bruxvoort Collegan; Album: Hope Wait Stay: Psalms for Resistance and Renewal © 2023

<https://youtu.be/OI3Nfhc2raI?si=-19AtANbNM9dKCox> (no video)

Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Not to us but to the Holy One we sing our song  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Not to us but to the Holy One, not to us

We give glory, we give glory  
Not to us but to the Holy One we sing our song  
We give glory, we give glory  
Not to us but to the Holy One, not to us

We give our trust, we give our trust  
Not to us but to the Holy One we sing our song  
We give our trust, we give our trust  
Not to us but to the Holy One, not to us, not to us

Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Not to us but to the Holy One we sing our song  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Not to us but to the Holy One, not to us



Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Not to us but to the Holy One we sing our song  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

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

1. 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 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:

2. Loving God, you call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice.  
*We will live justly.*
  
3. Loving God, you call us to be your presence in the world.  
*We will love tenderly.*
  
4. 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: **God is With Us** by Sharon Singers. July 17, 2008.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiIE9iikIZk> (lyric/video – end at 1.57)

We are not alone; we are not alone.  
We are not alone; God is with us.  
We are not alone; we are not alone.  
We are not alone: God is with us...

We are never alone, for God is with us.  
We, we are never alone, for God is with us.  
Now, through all our days. Always.  
Forever and ever: We are never alone.

And God will make us strong, for God is with us.  
We, we will press on, for God is with us.  
Now, through all our days, always.  
Forever and ever, we are never alone.  
Our God is with us now.

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

5. 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.
  
6. 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.
  
7. For you are the dwelling place within us,  
The empowerment around us,  
And the celebration among us,  
Now and forever. Amen.

#### Closing Prayer

O Compassionate One, we have come to understand that this day is a holy place where the eucharist of the ordinary and extraordinary happen, transforming our broken fragments into an eternal continuity that keeps us. May the hope that is instilled within us always be with us as we journey towards You. Amen.

#### Announcements

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

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.  
May we go in peace embraced by the light and warmth of our gathering,  
and be ready to follow Jesus in love and service to the holy people of God.

**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: **World Peace Prayer**, Marty Haugen, Choose to Hope: Songs of Reconciliation, Renewal & Promise © 2019 GIA Publications, Inc.

[https://youtu.be/nxTiRnF3\\_lg?si=G0DtGkAB-A7J35ne](https://youtu.be/nxTiRnF3_lg?si=G0DtGkAB-A7J35ne) (no video)

**Refrain:** Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
Let peace fill our universe.

Still now the angry cries, still now the angry guns,  
Still now your people die, Earth's sons and daughters.  
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,  
Come and teach us your way of compassion. **R**

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,  
Let us begin to grow into your people.  
We can be love, we can bring peace,  
We can still be your way of compassion. **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.***

\* All the readings are from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary made available through the Women's Ordination Conference.