

(Return to large group)

Discussion

Prayers of the Faithful

Response: **Hear us, O God**

Blessing and Empowerment

Closing Prayer

Leader: God of Wisdom, You breathe into our hearts in every moment, whispering your sacred power.

R.) Open our spirits to receive your grace in all the ways you invite us to be your holy messengers and ministers.

Leader: God of Creativity, you show us who you are in our mothers, in Mary of Magdala and in so many other women

R.) Open our eyes to see you in every woman, each of whom you created in your exquisite and divine image.

Leader: God of Infinite Love, you bless us with the gift of diversity, showing your face to us in every act of love and compassion.

R.) Open our hearts to receive those who are wounded and those who wound, loving all as you have taught us to love.

And may God bless all of us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Let us go in peace, glorifying God by our lives. **Thanks be to God.**



The Opening Prayer, Prayers of the Faithful, Blessing and Empowerment and Closing Prayer are adapted from the resource packet for Magdala Day 2018 from futurechurch.org.

A CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

*An evening of story-telling, prayer and discussion
with Mary Magdalene and other prominent women*

July 22, 2018

Luke Hansen, SJ, and Connie Walsh

Welcome

Introductions

Greeting

Penitential Rite

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Sign of Peace

Opening Prayer

Leader: Good and Loving God, Creator of women and men in your own image,

R.) Create in us and in our church a desire for the wholeness you planned;

Leader: Word made flesh, born of a woman,

R.) Empower us that we, like Mary of Magdala, may boldly live and proclaim the joy of the Gospel.

Leader: Holy Spirit, animator of women throughout history and into the present,

R.) Guide us as we work to empower women in our Church and world. Amen.

Reading: "He Walked Beside Me," by Loretta Pehanush

Talk: "Biblical reflections on Mary Magdalene and other prominent women in the early Churches – and possible implications for today," by Luke Hansen, S.J.

The Gospel of John (20:1, 11-18)

On the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping.
And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb
and saw two angels in white sitting there,
one at the head and one at the feet
where the Body of Jesus had been.
And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them, "They have taken my Lord,
and I don't know where they laid him."
When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there,
but did not know it was Jesus.
Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom are you looking for?"
She thought it was the gardener and said to him,
"Sir, if you carried him away,
tell me where you laid him, and I will take him."
Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which
means Teacher.
Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet
ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and tell them,
'I am going to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.'"
Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
"I have seen the Lord,"
and then reported what he told her.

Contemplative Prayer

Place yourself at the tomb with Mary Magdalene.
What do you see, smell, hear, taste, touch and feel?

What is Mary feeling at this moment?
Do you want to say something to her?

Listen to the emotion and tenderness in the conversation
between Mary and Jesus.
Imagine Mary hearing that familiar voice call her name.
Imagine Jesus speaking your name.
What words does Jesus want to speak to you?

Mary announces to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."
What is the truth that she holds in her heart?
What good news are you called to announce?

Small group discussion

What seems most notable from your prayer experience?
When have you heard the voice of God in your life?
How do you feel called to proclaim the Good News?