Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Prayer Service

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Call to Prayer

In Mexico in 1531, Spanish forces had violently taken over the land and oppressed the indigenous people there. It is in this context that the Blessed Mother appeared and chose a poor, indigenous man to bring her message of compassion and peace to his nation and all the world. On December 9th, 1531, Juan Diego was on his way to Mass, when beautiful music coming from Tepeyac hill caught his attention. Suddenly, a beautiful lady dressed as an Aztec princess appeared to him, spoke to him in his own language, and – declaring herself to be "Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live" – sent him to the bishop of Mexico to request that a chapel be built on the hill in her honor. Juan Diego obeyed, and persisted in making this request of the bishop, who initially dismissed him. On December 12th, Our Lady instructed Juan Diego to fill his cloak (*tilma*) with roses that miraculously bloomed on the rocky hillside and to take them to the bishop as proof of her presence. When he did so, he emptied the roses onto the ground and discovered a perfect image of Our Lady imprinted on his *tilma.* Then the bishop believed, and a chapel was built in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has remained a beacon of hope to all who look to her.

As we gather to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, let us hold in our hearts the blessing of Our Lady: "I … give all my love, compassion, help, and protection, because I am your merciful mother, to you, and to all the inhabitants on this land and all the rest who love me, invoke and confide in me." With the knowledge that her tenderness extends especially to our vulnerable and marginalized brothers and sisters, may we remember that "what our Lady did for Juan Diego, she continues to do for each of us: bringing us close to her Son, Jesus; mothering us into discovering our own innate self-worth and dignity; and assuring us of God's loving presence and protection" (Guadalupe Family Services).

Opening Song

Song to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Melody set to "Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore"

1. You… are the fountain of my life. Under your shadow… in your protection,
    I fear no evil… no pain no worry.

Refrain: **O Maria, O most merciful Mother, Gentle virgin… with the name Guadalupe.**
On a mountain… we find roses in winter. All the world… has been touched by your love.

2. Here… in the crossing of your arms, could there be anything… else that I need?
    Nothing discourage… nothing depress me.

3. You…are the star of the ocean, my boat is small… and the waves are so high. But with you to
    guide me… I'll reach my homeland.

4. You… are the dawn of a new day, for you give birth… to the Son of the Father.
    All of my lifetime… I'll walk beside you.

Reading

From *The Future is Mestizo*, by Virgilio Elizondo

"[Our Lady of Guadalupe] did not come to undo the events of the past and return to 'the good old days,' for that never happens. But she did come to bring something new out of the chaotic events of the past. She is neither an Indian goddess nor a European Madonna; she is something new. She is neither Spanish nor Indian and yet she is both and more; she is inviting and not threatening; she unites what others strive to divide. She is the first truly American person and as such the mother of the new generations to come. In her children, divisions of race and nationality will be overcome, the downtrodden will be uplifted, the marginated will be welcomed home, the cries of the silenced will be heard, and the dying will come to new life. … Guadalupe has the magnetic power to attract diverse people from all walks of life and, in her, they can experience unity. The basis of this unity is not the feeling that one often has at large gatherings, that of being absorbed by the mob. The deepest basis of humanizing unity is that regardless of the magnitude of the crowds, in her presence, each individual experiences personal recognition. Each one is looked upon compassionately eye-to-eye and tenderly called by name. Thus Guadalupe is the experience (not the illusion) of family, of community and individuality, in the midst of a world of anonymity and division. In spite of the threats of death, Guadalupe is an experience and guarantee of life.

Response to the Reading

Psalm 34

Refrain: The Lord hears the cry of the poor. *Bendito sea El Señor*. (Repeat)

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, God's praise ever in my mouth.
   Let my soul glory in the Lord, for God hears the cry of the poor. *R/*

2. Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;
   And to hearts broken God is near, for God hears the cry of the poor. *R/*

3. Every spirit crushed God will save; will be ransom for their lives;
   Will be safe shelter for their fears, for God hears the cry of the poor. *R/*

4. We proclaim the greatness of God, God's praise ever in our mouth;
   Every face brightened in God's light, for God hears the cry of the poor. *R/*

Reflection/Sharing

How is Our Lady of Guadalupe calling me to share her message of unity, compassion, and dignity for all?

How can I be a welcoming, loving presence to migrants, and to all who seem different from me?

Petitions (Adapted from Center of Concern, Education for Justice Project, 2010-2014)

1. Hail Mary, Lady of Peace.
   We Pray for peace in our world.

   Response **(All): Make us peacemakers.**

2. Hail Mary, Mother of Mexico.

   Response **(All): Help us to appreciate the cultures of Latin America.**

3. Hail Mary, Mother of the Infant Jesus.
   We pray for all children who are victims of violence, including those traumatized by detention and separation from their families.

   Response **(All): Let us stand for them.**

4. Hail Mary, Homeless Mother.
   We pray for the migrant families seeking to make a home together in peace and safety, and for all homeless persons.

   Response **(All): Open our hearts to welcome them.**

5. Hail Mary, Wife of the Carpenter, Joseph.
   We pray for those working hard to care for their families.

   Response **(All): Let us recognize their dignity.**

6. Hail Mary, Lady of All Colors.

   Response **(All): Show us how to love all people by challenging racism and discrimination.**

7. Hail Mary, Friend of Common People.
   Unite us across economic and cultural lines.

   Response **(All): Together let us raise up the cause of the oppressed.**

8. Hail Mary, Mother of Our World.
   We pray for unity and justice for all of your children.

   Response **(All): Let us share hope with all the world.**

Closing Prayer

Dios te salve, María. Llena eres de gracia: El Señor es contigo. Bendita tú eres entre todas las mujeres. Y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre: Jesús. Santa María, Madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros pecadores, ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The following song, *La Guadalupana*, is traditionally sung during the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

La Guadalupana – If online, click here for musical rendition

Desde el cielo una hermosa mañana (x2)
La Guadalupana, La Guadalupana,
La Guadalupana bajó al Tepeyac. (x2)

From heaven, one beautiful morning (x2)
the Virgin of Guadalupe, Virgin of Guadalupe,
Virgin of Guadalupe came down to Tepeyac (x2)

Suplicante juntaba sus manos (x2)
Y eran mexicanos, eran mexicanos,
eran mexicanos su porte y su faz. (x2)

Pleadingly, she joined her hands (x2)
And it was the Mexican people, it was the
Mexican people, it was the Mexican people
whom she resembled. (x2)

Su llegada llenó de alegría (x2)
de luz y armonía, de luz y armonía,
de luz y armonía todo el Anáhuac. (x2)

Her arrival brought happiness (x2)
And light and harmony, light and harmony,
light and hrmony to all of Anáhuac. (x2)

Por/junto al monte pasaba Juan Diego (x2)
y acercóse luego, acercóse luego,
y acercóse luego al oír cantar. (x2)

Juan Diego was passing by the mountain (x2)
And drew nearer when, and drew nearer when,
and drew nearer when he heard singing. (x2)

Juan Diego la Virgen le dijo: (x2)
Este cerro elijo, este cerro elijo,
este cerro elijo para hacer mi altar. (x2)

To Juan Diego the Virgin said: (x2)
"This is the hill I've chosen, the hill I've chosen,
the hill I've chosen for my altar to be built." (x2)

En la tilma entre rosas pintada (x2)
su imagen amada, su imagen amada,
su imagen amada se dignó dejar. (x2)

And among the painted roses of the tilma (x2)
Her beloved image, her beloved image,
her beloved image she has left upon it. (x2)

Desde entonces para el mexicano (x2)
ser Guadalupano, ser Guadalupano,
ser Guadalupano es algo esencial. (x2)

As of then, for the Mexican people (x2)
To be a Guadalupan, to be a Guadalupan,
to be a Guadalupan was something essential.
(x2)