

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."  
(Isaiah 56:7)**

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-second year of  
Ministry.**

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples  
of every person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.  
You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.  
In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:  
"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God" (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable.  
We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in  
our Joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is 4-13-25 Palm Sunday, Year C  
Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian Faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.  
St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as  
***"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."***  
Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal  
and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

**Special Scripture Readings for this worship event:**

**First Reading:** Zechariah Chapter 9:9-10 pg. 884

**Psalm:** Responsorial Psalm / Hymn based on Psalm 24

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:1-10 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 224

**Gospel:** Luke 19:28 - 45 2<sup>ND</sup> Test. page 83

**\*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are found in the front portion, and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you, ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.**

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.**

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As our bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

Our St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, is a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, given in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate His victory and in gratitude for our Salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



## **WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS**

**+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. This is your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop, where The One Creating and Loving God is C.E.O, the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ of God, and the Operations Manager is The Holy Spirit. Our Congregation, Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here today to facilitate this worship event. To participate fully, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship,

and Music Supplement available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). For people watching on the Internet, we recommend you have two Internet devices on. Set one device on Facebook Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#). Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. Right-click on this Skype Link: <https://join.skype.com/qt6Y1PQvj04I>. You do not need an account on Skype to "enter as a guest" when prompted. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*) We invite you to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second half of this worship event. You need not be a member of this church or any church to receive Communion with us if you choose to. To the people watching on the Internet, to participate in Communion, please also bring to your table 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, and 3) a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Now, gather all these items, and we will start shortly.



**ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)**

(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



**Bell's 2<sup>nd</sup> ring will announce the start of the worship event.**

**(\*\*\*\* Please wait to hear the second bells before continuing. \*\*\*\*)**

**Leader – 2:** **(\*\* Reader, look up at the people and smile.\*\*)** Thank you for choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15, verse 7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

**ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE)**

**Leader -2:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. **(\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*)** Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**Ray Of Hope Church officially began on 10/31/1983.**

**June 1, 2024, was the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.**

**Pastor:** Good Morning, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

**ALL: We meet in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Pastor:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's love, and the Holy Spirit's fellowship is with you. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**ALL: And also with you, praise the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Welcome to your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop. We promise to do our best to help you worship God in Christ in the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today is April 13, 2025, Palm Sunday in our 42nd year of ministry, the start of Holy Week celebrating the week that changed

everything. Let's give God a hand-clap and a cheer for bringing us here to this Holy Week, 2025!!!! Last Sunday, we reviewed the Prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 and following the Interpretation Tradition that extends back to the time of the Apostles, we followed the Math from 445 B.C. to the life of Christ. Even with the difficulties of **human error** caused by changes in the calendars, **the prophecy reveals the historical life of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ** 483 years after the "Going forth of the command to rebuild the walls and the City of Jerusalem" in 445 B.C. according to Nehemiah Chapters one and following. Due to the changes in calendars through the Centuries, some teachers conclude the prophecy of Daniel reveals the Baptism of Jesus, and other teachers conclude the prophecy of Daniel reveals His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on the day we call Palm Sunday, even on our calendar as April 2nd. The difference is all of three and one half years, but the Prophecy explains why the people were ready to greet Jesus at the start of the week of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. We are here to celebrate that Holy Week to begin to worship God with our whole heart, mind, and soul, in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

**ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.**

### **FIRST SONG: Notebook #46 Hosanna words and music by Carl Tuttle**

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### **Liturgy of the Blessing of the Palms**

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. It would be ideal to gather outside this morning, down the street. We could have banners, musicians, instruments, and palms. We could sing hymns and announce our celebration of The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at the start of his Passion Week. We would sing and process up the street and into our beautiful double doors.

**Leader – 3:** Jesus entered the City of Jerusalem on the date foretold by the Prophet Daniel over 560 years earlier. We have that prophecy

preserved in the Bible in the Book of Daniel. It is easy to do the math and see that anyone studying the Holy Scriptures during the life of Jesus of Nazareth should have recognized Him as the Suffering-Servant Messiah.

**ALL: Many people did recognize Him and they came together to give Jesus honor and praise. They waved palm branches in procession before Him and spread their cloaks on the ground, forming a royal welcome mat from what they had.**

**Pastor:** Today's first act of worship is to remember and thank God for this great event by blessing and waving palm branches to celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. All the work of God is done through the action of the Holy Spirit in the Church Age. A blessing-action of the Holy Spirit is called an **epiclesis**, where the action of the Holy Spirit causes change. We pray an **epiclesis**, blessing prayer for change, every time we celebrate Holy Communion together. Next we are going to pray an **epiclesis** prayer, and there will be many more during Holy Week. With this prayer, we ask God to make these palm branches holy. If you have some Holy Water at home you may sprinkle the branches or just say the prayer out loud.

Together, we pray this blessing:

**ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate these palm branches and other items we shall wave in your honor, for Christ's purpose. Let them be a constant reminder of your Triumphal Entry into our hearts. Come, Lord Jesus, Come into our hearts and set us free. Teach us to follow you in joyful procession all the days of our lives. We ask this in the Name of Jesus, Amen.**

**Leader – 3:** We go forth now, in a VIRTUAL PROCESSION, with palms and loud singing as we sing together The King Of Glory.

**Pastor:** This year, while I play the piano, you who are out there with us on camera and everyone in the chapel, wave the palm branches (or whatever branch you can find to wave) on the refrain of this second song to spiritually welcome Jesus afresh into our

lives.



**First SONG: THE KING OF GLORY** (Glory And Praise #423) Text: 12 12 with refrain. Text © 1967, Willard F. Jabusch. Administered by OCP. All rights reserved. Music: Trad. Israeli folk song. Used with permission. Onelicense # 81352 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.



## WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

**Leader -4:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Please be seated. (wait) At this time you may place your palms under your seat, out of the way. So far, we gathered together, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, we prepare to accept God's renewal when we listen to the Word and the Holy Scriptures by reflecting on our relationships with God and others in silent prayer. Christ is present and listening to receive the silent confession of our faults, sins, and failures. He promises to forgive our sins immediately.

(silent prayer \*\* leader, please pause for prayers \*\*)

**Leader -4:** We pray together:

**ALL:** I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended anyone, and God, in any way. **Therefore**, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Leader -4:** Almighty and loving God, you continue to bless the Human

Race with a spectrum of ethnicities and cultural traditions. You have made us many and yet one Body in You. So that people everywhere would learn to embrace the full spectrum of your love expressed in the Human Race, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Christ Jesus, Our Lord, you are actually and truly present in your church. You call us to proclaim God's glory, praise God, live for God, and to guide others to God. Give us the courage to tell others about your imminent return and future kingdom openly; we pray, Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Holy Spirit, you are with us as the Helper, the Comforter, our Advocate, our Intercessor – Counselor, our Strengthener, the one who will always support us. You inspired the people close to Jesus to study the Scriptures and know who He was. So that we would seek to understand you in our study of the Scriptures, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, grant us peace.**

**Pastor:** We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without the loss of anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen. The faith community of Ray Of Hope Church openly declares the forgiveness of all your confessed sins in the Name of Jesus Christ. He forgives you, we forgive you, and God rejoices over your restoration in Christ. Amen.**

**Leader - 4:** The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together. Please rise as you are able as we sing "The Gloria."

## WORDS ONLY HERE. MUSIC SCROLL DOWN

### "The Gloria"

From "Music for Worship"

© Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B. Dedication :Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!

We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 1:

You are the One God,  
Sovereign of the Universe,  
Only Holy God, we worship You,  
we give You thanks,  
we praise You for Your great glory!

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!

We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 2:

Lord, Jesus Christ;  
The Only Begotten Son of God  
You are Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of God;  
receive our prayer.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 3:

For You alone are the Holy One.  
You alone are the Lord of all,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
With the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God.  
In the Holy Spirit, in the Holy unity of God.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 4:

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen.

From "Music for Worship" © Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br.  
Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

Dedication: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Dedication:  
Ray Of Hope Church  
Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.  
40th Anniversary

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

Words and Music  
Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
7/25/19-1/21/24  
Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

**Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

4  
peace to all peo - ple on earth — Glo - ry to God in the high - est —

8  
We give you thanks — and praise. Al - le - lu — ia

10  
We give you thanks — and praise.

12 **Verse 1**

You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un - i - verse, On - ly

16  
Ho - ly God, — we wor - ship You, — we

18  
give you thanks, we praise You for Your great glo - ry!

21 **Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, — and peace to all peo - ple on earth —

25  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est — We give you thanks — and

2

28  
  
 praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

31 **Verse 2**  
  
 Lord, Jes - us Christ;\_\_\_\_\_ The On - ly Be - got - ten

34  
  
 Son of God, You are Lord God,

36  
  
 Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; Have mer - cy on

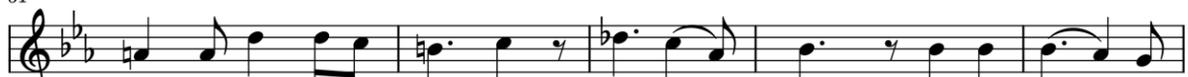
41  
  
 us; You are sea-ted at the right hand of God; re - ceive our prayer.

46 **Refrain**  
  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est,\_\_\_ and peace to all peo-ple on\_ earth\_

50  
  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est\_\_\_ We give you thanks\_ and

53  
  
 praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

56 **Verse 3**  
  
 For You a-lone are the Ho - ly One You a - lone are the Lord of all,

61  
  
 You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, With the Ho - ly

66

Spi-rit in the glo - ry of God. In the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the

71

Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, - and peace to all peo-ple on\_ earth\_

79

Glo-ry to God in the high-est\_ We give you thanks\_ and praise. Al-le-lu\_ia

83

We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen

A\_ men\_ We

We give You thanks and praise!

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

give You thnks, We give You praise We give You thnaks and praise

89

A - men

A - men. Al - le - lu - ia.

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You men. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PASTOR:** Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader-1:** The Lord is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Leader-1:** Together, we lift up our hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Leader-1:** We make this exhortation together:

**ALL: Let us keep the Scriptures in mind and meditate upon them day and night, persevering in prayer, always on the watch. Let us beg the Lord to give us real knowledge of what we read and to show us not only how to understand it but how to put it into practice, so that we may deserve to obtain spiritual grace, enlightened by the law of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose power and glory will endure throughout the ages. Amen**

**Leader-1:** Saint Origen, who lived from 185 – 254 A.D., wrote this prayer. His prayer is our prayer on this day. Please be seated now and listen with all your heart, soul, and mind as we open the Word of God. You may set your palm branches under your chair and take them home with you.



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

### + First Reading

**Reader:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

Our first reading is in the Book of Zechariah chapter 9, verses 9-10. The Prophet Zechariah began his public ministry in the year 520 BC. In this prophecy Zechariah was told how and by what means the Messiah would someday be revealed in the City of Jerusalem. It would nearly 550 years later that Jesus would follow these instructions to the last detail. Those people who were studying the prophecies during the Life of Jesus would have recognized who it was they were welcoming and why he was riding a donkey rather than a white military horse like the Roman Generals rode. This prophecy covers three time periods: 1) Messiah's actual lifetime revealing on the day we name Palm Sunday, 2) How Messiah will destroy the armies of the Antichrist in the future, and 3) how Messiah will establish His kingdom on Earth in the future. You will find this on page 884 in the front of the NRSV 1989 Pew Edition Bible. I will be

reading from The Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading of this prophecy:

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice in heart and soul, daughter of Zion!  
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!  
Look! Your ruler comes to you:  
victorious and triumphant,  
humble, riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

(The following verse 10 is a prophecy of the future Battle of Armageddon.)

<sup>10</sup> The ruler will banish chariots from Ephraim  
and horses from Jerusalem;  
the bow will be banished.

(The following verse 10b is a prophecy of the future Kingdom of Christ on Earth.)

The ruler will proclaim peace for the nations;  
the empire stretching from sea to sea,  
from the River to the ends of the earth.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(Zechariah 9:9-10. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p. 1461). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 362. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

## + Psalm

**Reader:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Psalm today is a canticle or hymn composed by Br. Benedict. It is loosely based on Psalm 24, verses 7-10. The response today is "Lord Jesus, You are the King of Glory. We acknowledge you and give you Praise."

**R: Lord Jesus, You are the King of Glory.**

**We acknowledge you and give you Praise.**

O ancient gates be lifted,  
let the ancient doors be raised,  
Announce and welcome the King of Glory.

**R: Lord Jesus, You are the King of Glory.  
We acknowledge you and give you Praise.**

You may ask, Who is the king of glory?  
How should we welcome Him?  
It is the Lord, the mighty, the valiant,  
He is the King of Glory, and He will win  
the final victory over sin and death.

**R: Lord Jesus, You are the King of Glory.  
We acknowledge you and give you Praise.**

Raise high the ancient gates.  
Let all the ancient doors be opened  
so that the King of Glory may enter  
to take His throne of Salvation.

**R: Lord Jesus, You are the King of Glory.  
We acknowledge you and give you Praise.**

Now you know Him, and now you understand;  
It is the Lord of heavenly armies.  
He is the King of Glory, and He will come  
to rule upon the Earth. His kingdom will fill the Earth.  
He is the King of Glory.

**R: Lord Jesus, You are the King of Glory.  
We acknowledge you and give you Praise.  
Give praise to the Living God.  
To God's Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.  
To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.**

**Both now, and forever. Amen.**

**+ Second Reading**

**Reader:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. (The second reading is in the book of Hebrews, chapter 10, verses one through ten. The reading is on page 224 in the 1989 edition of the NRSV. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible.) \*\* I apologize to Ian as this citation was not in the original version of this bulletin.\*\*

10:1 Since the Law was only a reflection of the good things to come and not their true reality, it was quite incapable of perfecting the worshipers by the same sacrifices offered continually year after year.<sup>2</sup> Otherwise, wouldn't the priests have stopped offering them because the worshipers, once cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sin?<sup>3</sup> But through these sacrifices there came only a yearly reminder of sins,<sup>4</sup> because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.<sup>5</sup> And this is what Jesus said, on coming into the world:

"You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation prepared a body for me.<sup>6</sup> In burnt offerings or sacrifices for sin you took no pleasure.<sup>7</sup> Then I said, just as it was written of me in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am!  
I have come to do your will.'" (Psalm 40:6-8)

<sup>8</sup> In saying that God doesn't want burnt offerings and sacrifices—which are offered according to the Law—<sup>9</sup> and then saying, "'I have come to do your will,'" Jesus abolishes the first Covenant in order to establish the second.<sup>10</sup> By God's will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(Hebrews 10:1-10. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 3162-3163). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 777. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited

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## + The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

### Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993  
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the

truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your

Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our

hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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**Reader:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Gospel reading is on page 83 in the back of the NRSV 1989 Pew Edition Bible. The reading is the Gospel of Luke, chapter 19, verses 28-45.

**Reader:** Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.  
**ALL: And also with you.**

**Reader:** A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.  
**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be in our (+) minds that we will understand it,**

**on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and  
in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

Having said this, Jesus went ahead with the ascent to Jerusalem.<sup>29</sup> Approaching Bethphage and Bethany, near what is called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions:<sup>30</sup> "Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back."<sup>31</sup> If anyone should ask you, "Why are you untying it?" say, "The Rabbi needs it."<sup>32</sup> They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus had said.<sup>33</sup> As they untied the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you doing that?"<sup>34</sup> They explained that the Rabbi needed it.<sup>35</sup> Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount.<sup>36</sup> People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along.<sup>37</sup> As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying,<sup>38</sup> "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!"

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"<sup>40</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!"<sup>41</sup> Coming within sight of Jerusalem, Jesus wept over it<sup>42</sup> and said, "If only you had known the path to peace today! But now it has been hidden from your eyes."<sup>43</sup> Days will come upon you when your enemies will encircle you with a rampart, hem you in and press you hard from every side.<sup>44</sup> They'll wipe you out, you and your children within your walls, and won't leave one stone on top of another within you, because you failed to recognize the time of your visit from God."<sup>45</sup> Then Jesus entered the Temple and began throwing out the vendors,<sup>46</sup> saying, "Scripture says, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer'—but you have made it a den of thieves!"

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

(Luke 19:28-45. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 2829-2830). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 115. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team,

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## Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church  
for the 1996 New Year,  
The Year of The Holy Spirit!

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds the  
Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!  
You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our  
joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!  
For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.



The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st year in Ministry.

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10**

## + Sermon

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as ***"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."***

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> It is not ourselves we preach, but Christ Jesus as Sovereign, and ourselves as your workers for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts, so that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But this treasure we possess is in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us.

(2 Corinthians 4:5-6. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p 3067). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 115. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

**Announcement:** Glenn Rathbun, Wayne Harris, and Katrina Lourdiane are completing the Inquiries Class. They have requested Membership, and on Thursday, April 10, 2025, the Council voted unanimously to welcome Glenn, Wayne, and Katrina into Membership. We will celebrate the Rite of Membership as part of our Great Vigil of the Resurrection on Saturday night, April 19, 2025, after sunset, at about 7:45 p.m.

### **Matthew 20:17-19. Jesus a Third Time Predicts His Death and Resurrection**

<sup>17</sup> Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, <sup>18</sup> "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, <sup>19</sup> and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." (NKJV)

## **Holy Week, 2025, celebrating the week that changed everything.**

### Vocabulary

**Anamnesis** is a Greek word used in the study of worship to indicate active remembering by action, awareness, acclamation, actualizing, ascending, and actually remembering by doing. We experience this when we say expressions like, "It is as if Grandma is here." Sometimes, seeing a movie, video, looking at photos can activate remembering and reliving an experience.

**Epiclesis** is a Greek word that actively calls for the Holy Spirit to do something and to make something happen that will glorify God in, with, and through Christ. Every blessing using spoken words is an epiclesis.

Palm Sunday – **Hosanna**: definition of the word.

Matthew 21:9, 10 [9](#) and the multitudes—some of the people preceding Him and some following—sang aloud, "God save the Son of David! Blessings on Him who comes in the Lord's name! God in the highest Heavens save Him!"

(**Weymouth New testament** [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weymouth\\_New\\_Testament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weymouth_New_Testament)] )

John Nelson Darby (b. 1800 – d. 1882), see our website page:

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/darby1.htm>) wrote the following regarding the word

Hosanna.: "The multitude spread their garments to prepare the way for their meek, though glorious King; they cut down branches from the trees to bear Him testimony; and He is conducted in triumph to Jerusalem, while the people cry, "Hosanna [Save now] to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!"

(Source: Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, 1857-1862, Volume 3 Matthew to John, pgs. 146,147. John Nelson Darby, printed in the USA 1979, Bible Truth Publishers P.O.Box 649, Industrial Road Addison, Illinois 60101)

[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/4-2-](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/4-2-23%20Palm%20Sunday%20DARBY%20INFORMATION%20Synopsis%20of%20the%20Books%20of%20the%20Bible.pdf)

[23%20Palm%20Sunday%20DARBY%20INFORMATION%20Synopsis%20of%20the%20Books%20of%20the%20Bible.pdf](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/4-2-23%20Palm%20Sunday%20DARBY%20INFORMATION%20Synopsis%20of%20the%20Books%20of%20the%20Bible.pdf)

## G5614

ὡσαννά

hōsanna

ho-san-nah'

Of Hebrew origin [H3467] and [H4994]; *oh save!*; *hosanna* (that is, *hoshia-na*), an exclamation of adoration: - hosanna.

**Total KJV occurrences: 6**

## H3467

עֲשֵׂה

yâsha'

yaw-shah'

A primitive root; properly to *be open, wide* or *free*, that is, (by implication) to *be safe*; causatively to *free* or *succor*: - X at all, avenging, defend, deliver (-er), help, preserve, rescue, be safe, bring (having) salvation, save (-iour), get victory.

**Total KJV occurrences: 205**

## H4994

נָא

nâ'

naw

A primitive particle of incitement and entreaty, which may usually be rendered I *pray, now* or *then*; added mostly to verbs (in the imperative or future), or to interjections, occasionally to an adverb or conjugation: - I beseech (pray) thee (you), go to, now, oh.

**Total KJV occurrences: 40**

So, free us now; our salvation is here in the name of the Lord of the House of David.

Dictionary.com hosanna

*interjection*

(an exclamation, originally an appeal to God for deliverance, used in praise of God or Christ.)

*noun, plural ho-san-nas.*

a cry of "hosanna."

a shout of praise or adoration; an [acclamation](#).  
verb (used with object), **ho-san-naed, ho-san-na-ing**.  
to praise, applaud, etc.: *The critics hosannaed his new play.*

Monstrance: Latin monstrare - to show. Medieval Latin monstrantia demonstration or proof, a monstrance, is used to show Blessed Sacrament or Eucharistic Miracles.

\*\*\*\*\* show monstrances

Scriptures:

(<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/Clarence%20Larkin%20Daniel's%2069%20weeks%20Palm%20Sunday%20April%202%20Rightly%20Dividing%20the%20Word%20of%20Truth%20Kindle.pdf>)

Jesus fulfills Zechariah 9:9 your king comes to you; he is humble and riding on a donkey, triumphant and victorious.

Jesus does not fulfill 9:10-11;

(The following verse 10 is a prophecy of the future Battle of Armageddon.)

<sup>10</sup> He<sup>[a]</sup> will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,

(The following verse, 10b, is a prophecy of the future Kingdom of Christ on Earth.)

and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Hebrews 10:8, 9, 10

One and final sacrifice. Jesus "abolishes the first" order and covenant, the Law, to "establish the second" order and covenant, Grace.

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will<sup>[d]</sup> that we have been

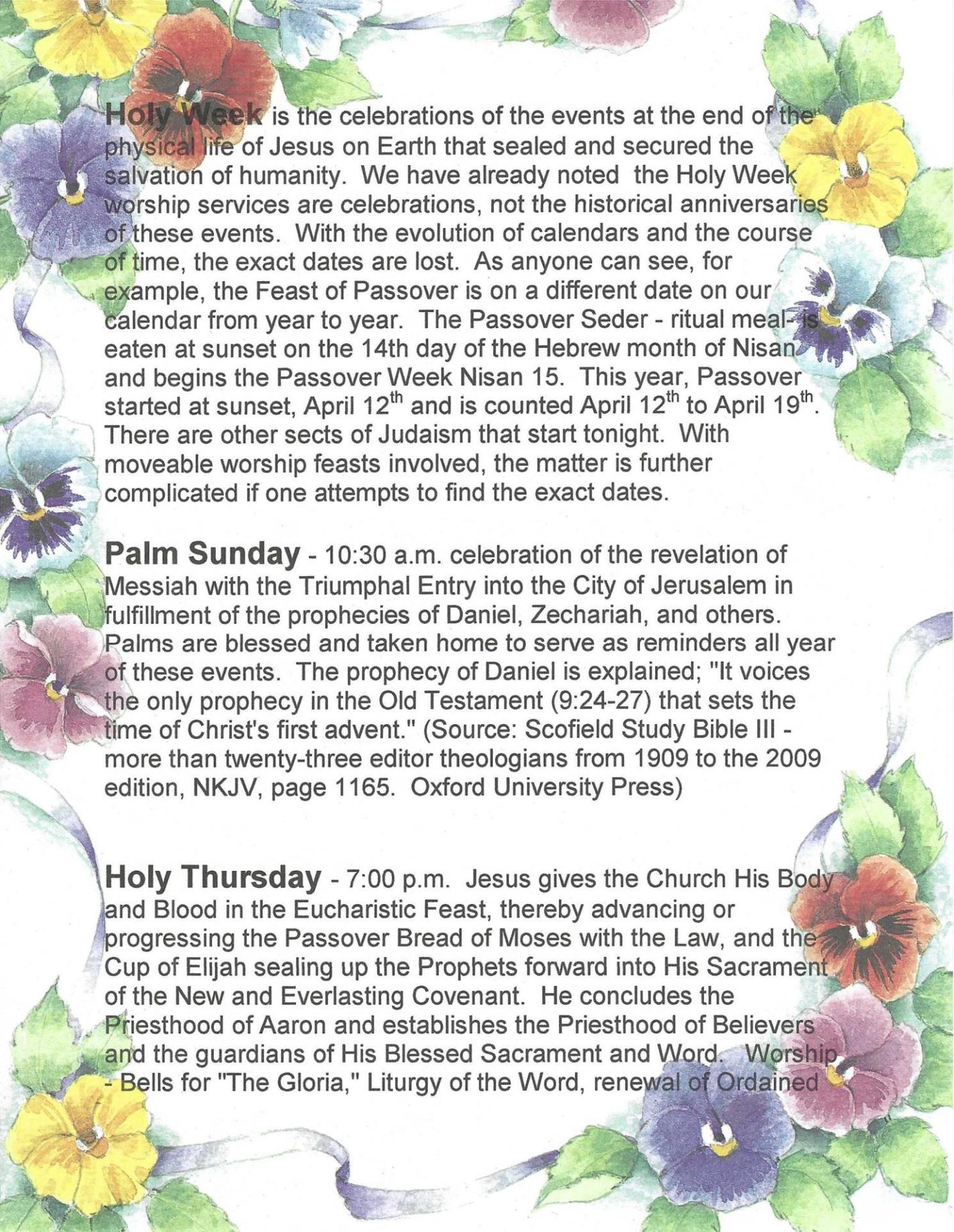
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ  
once for all.

## WOMEN of Holy Week.

This week, the thought crossed my mind to talk about the human relationships strained by the events we call Holy Week. We hear of women named Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, "many other women who followed Christ," Mary, the mother of James and Joses ("Joey") Matt 27:56,

Article: **The Women Who Followed Jesus from Galilee** by Lani and John Hilton, March 2022. (Source: [https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2022/03/08\\_the-women-who-followed-jesus-from-galilee?lang=eng](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2022/03/08_the-women-who-followed-jesus-from-galilee?lang=eng) )

During The Stations of the Cross, which we will celebrate Friday, women have a prominent presence: the Fourth Station, Jesus meets his afflicted mother. The Sixth Station; Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. (Britannica article St. Veronica: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Veronica>) The Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27, 28)



**Holy Week** is the celebrations of the events at the end of the physical life of Jesus on Earth that sealed and secured the salvation of humanity. We have already noted the Holy Week worship services are celebrations, not the historical anniversaries of these events. With the evolution of calendars and the course of time, the exact dates are lost. As anyone can see, for example, the Feast of Passover is on a different date on our calendar from year to year. The Passover Seder - ritual meal - is eaten at sunset on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan and begins the Passover Week Nisan 15. This year, Passover started at sunset, April 12<sup>th</sup> and is counted April 12<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup>. There are other sects of Judaism that start tonight. With moveable worship feasts involved, the matter is further complicated if one attempts to find the exact dates.

**Palm Sunday** - 10:30 a.m. celebration of the revelation of Messiah with the Triumphal Entry into the City of Jerusalem in fulfillment of the prophecies of Daniel, Zechariah, and others. Palms are blessed and taken home to serve as reminders all year of these events. The prophecy of Daniel is explained; "It voices the only prophecy in the Old Testament (9:24-27) that sets the time of Christ's first advent." (Source: Scofield Study Bible III - more than twenty-three editor theologians from 1909 to the 2009 edition, NKJV, page 1165. Oxford University Press)

**Holy Thursday** - 7:00 p.m. Jesus gives the Church His Body and Blood in the Eucharistic Feast, thereby advancing or progressing the Passover Bread of Moses with the Law, and the Cup of Elijah sealing up the Prophets forward into His Sacrament of the New and Everlasting Covenant. He concludes the Priesthood of Aaron and establishes the Priesthood of Believers and the guardians of His Blessed Sacrament and Word. Worship - Bells for "The Gloria," Liturgy of the Word, renewal of Ordained



Priestly Vows, Eucharist, Meditation (in the Garden) using a monstrance and stand, Benediction at 8:30. Finished by 8:45 p.m. Please leave the chapel in silence for those who wish to remain and pray. We can visit outdoors. There is no social hour.

**Good Friday (Sacrifice Friday, Passion Friday) -**

7:00 p.m. The Stations of the Cross with two hymns, "Were You There" and "Lift High The Cross." There is no Holy Communion on this day. We are usually finished by 8:00 p.m. Please leave the chapel in silence for those who wish to remain and pray. We can visit outdoors. There is no social hour.

**Holy Saturday, The Vigil of the Resurrection of Christ -**

The most important worship event of the entire year. 7:45 p.m. after sunset. The celebration begins with awe and praise for all of Creation. Begins with the blessing of a new fire and service of Light, then water with the service of Baptism, and the Word continues through the Resurrection Proclamation with the singing of "The Gloria" with ringing bells. The Gospel of the Resurrection, the Rite of Membership to receive new Members into the Church. The Eucharist is celebrated. Normally finished by 9:30 p.m. There is a social time even around the fire to roast marshmallows, hotdogs and other treats if people happen to bring them and want to stay and visit.

No events are scheduled for Sunday, April 20 so you can visit with others on "Easter Sunday."

Visit our main website: [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com)

Visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/lgbtqisia2ssByYou/>

Address: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.  
380 W. 1st St., Elmira, NY 14901. Pastor's cell: 1-607-280-0374

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\*\*\*\*\*OPEN MICROPHONE \*\*\*\*\*

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:** \*\* Wayne Harris has started an Intercessory Prayer book. See Wayne to add names or situations to the list. Heather Austin reports she is healing very well from her surgery, Henrietta Bower, Michael Austin, Ruth Goyette, Glenn Rathbun's hands are healing very well, Annie Houser and Gary Davis are also reporting they are healing very nicely, Ed Askins, Phillipa Askins, Marty Grinolds, Cheryl Allen reports she is grateful for our prayers and she is very pleased with how well she has been this year, Louisa Lourdiane, the Baptist community of Elmira, the people of the Northside of Syracuse are facing the aftermath of a huge fire at the former Mother House of the Sisters of St. Francis where Mother Cope received her education - there were hopes for new apartments for the elderly at the building, Pope Francis, Debbie Emerson, Ann Devillers, Nettie Pirozzolo, William Burns, Joe Cost, Earl Courtney, Ellanna Joe Adams, Kaiden Benedict, John McLaughlin, Ian McLaughlin, the young women who are having their access to education taken away all our the world, Trans Service Members in the United States Armed Forces, Trans youth and are being denied continuation of medical treatments by our government. Cheryl Allen requests prayers for her grandniece Kennedy Grace, and her grandnephew Xavier (Zay) McLaughlin as they are working through some important health issues.

We prayed for a peaceful death for Michael's Aunt Mary and the prayers were granted. We now have been asked to pray for her children, grandchildren and her very large family as they find the way forward. Michael's stepfather, Larry Chalfant, is still struggling with many health issues, and he will be starting to receive in-home aide services. We also want to remember the family of Qua'Ron Marquis, Faison - Veronica's second cousin as they also process the loss of him and the loss of his future. Dolores Wilcox, whom we were praying for, passed on April 5 peacefully in her sleep. We continue to pray for her family. Also, in our prayer requests we have heard from people who have lost pets recently including Brandi Girl,III - Glenn's dog, and Og - Ian's cat.

|  |  |
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(Visit our moving prayers page [Right Click Here.](#))

**Leader:** Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful for all the people over these last forty-one years of ministry who have given help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in this new year of 2025. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen." Your giving has been exemplary and extraordinary; may God bless you.

We are an independent organization founded and funded by anyone who appreciates what we offer. Your support is one way to give God thanks and praise for this unique ministry for all people. There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation, including



this QRCode, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information, including our street address. We always say, "Give what you can, but never give your last."

**OFFERTORY SONG: Notebook #42 Bless His Holy Name.** Words and Music by Andraé Crouch COPYRIGHTS ©1973 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin.by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI SONG #17566. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**Leader - 3:** (\*\*You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We thank you for those who can give financially and with their skills, prayers, talents, and other ways. We bless you for those who could not give at this time and pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen.

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

**ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.**

**Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Pastor or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this Bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Leader 1:** Please set down your Bread. For those at home, pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

**Brother Benedict:** Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Leader 1:** Please set down your cup.

**Pastor:** Truly present and risen among us; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor:** As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!**

**Pastor:** As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Pastor: (An improvised prayer is said here.)**

May our voices be one with all the fabulous Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join their unending praise hymns.

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts

October 31, 1993

Revised 8/2013

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
 5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 10 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 22 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
 27 san - na in the high - est.

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### + We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

**Leader 1:** At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the Bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

**ALL:** O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this Bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and

**commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for our physical and spiritual well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

**Leader - 1:** You may relax your arms and hands.

**+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION SONG: Remember Me.** Words and Music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin J. Nystrom © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 16813, Mobile, AL, 36695. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. CCLI Song # 451177 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**+ The Lord's Prayer**

**Leader 3:** Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who Art in Heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on Earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily  
Bread; and forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us; and  
lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian

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## The Reception of Holy Communion

**Pastor:** Please raise the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of praise and pray together:

**ALL:** Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.

**Leader - 2:** Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

**ALL:** Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed. It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

### Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to\_\_\_\_ You. Al - migh - ty

5 God\_\_\_\_ world with - out end.\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11 A\_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!\_\_\_\_

**Leader 4:** Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. Receive now the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Gift of God for the People of God. Receive these gifts of love to strengthen your resolve to serve others and God and to fortify your Salvation. I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, and will be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

**Veronica:** We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion based upon a prayer in a Prayer Book at the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

**Oh, My Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment. Still, circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

### **+ Sign Of Peace**

**Leader-1:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Leader-1:** Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. \*\*During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**Leader-1:** Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of

the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

**COMMUNION SONG: I Am The Bread Of Life.** Words and Music by Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b.1927 Contributors: Suzanne Toolan  
Tune: © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Based on John 6 and 11; © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Onelicense Song # 00044 Lead Me, Guide Me 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 755 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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**NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)**

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**Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2025**

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of March was \$1,988.41. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$3,274.11. This included special donations of \$20.00 toward the cost of the Inquiries class notebooks. I also transferred in \$36.27 from the Building Fund. Payments out of this account were: Pastoral compensation of \$2,060.00, Verizon \$62.47, Corning Pride application fee of \$50.00, a reimbursement to Brother for \$184.08 ( which was coded to the following accounts: Fire Alarm Maintenance for CO2 detector \$36.27, copy expenses for notebooks for inquiries class \$81.42, wine and

grape juice purchase from Ash Wednesday service \$66.39) Appointed Pastor Self Employment tax was moved to saving in the amount of \$23.32 and Paypal charges for the month were \$30.26. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$2,888.66. There was undeposited funds in this account of \$1.99 and I recorded a \$90.00 Gift in Kind from Wayne and Glenn for drycleaning of the choir robes.

Building Fund opening balance was \$1,481.44. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$648.00, Ian and Christina \$450.00 and Wayne and Glenn \$200.00. Bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$56.27, electric \$276.92, gas bill \$253.00, Liability Insurance \$275.60, water bill \$78.56 and I transferred \$36.27 to the General Fund to repay that account for the CO2 detector. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,802.82. Undeposited funds in this account was \$50.00 from Katrina Lourdiane.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$864.36. There was no activity on this account so the ending balance is \$864.36

Savings (Council) Account opening balance \$665.33. \$23.32 was transferred into this account from the General Fund towards the Appointed Pastor's self- employment tax.

The ending balance on this account was \$688.65. \$250.00 of this is the self- employment tax.

I wanted to add just a few additional notes.

I sincerely thank you all for your generous donations. God is and has been so faithful to us. Every gift the Church receives is so greatly appreciated as we press on to do what God has called us to do. You can see from the above report what is involved concerning finances alone to make the Church function. Our income for the first three months of 2025 totals \$14,204.20. Our expenses for the first three months of the year were \$12,654.39. I'm holding \$330.00 which was given for a specific expense, so figuring that in, we have a difference of \$1,219.81 of income over expenses. We are clearing expenses by about \$400 per month.

The credit card balance as of the last statement is \$2,399.94 with a credit limit of \$4,000.00. Our payment is \$53.00 a month with \$29.00 of that being interest.

As of today, April 10,2025. The balance in the General Fund is \$1,878.66, Building Fund \$1,232.30, Building Improvement Fund \$864.36 and Savings (Council) Account \$438.65.

Both NYSEG bills (electric & gas) have been paid this month in addition to the liability insurance and the Self-Employment tax payment due 4/15 has been paid. Also, the Real Property Tax Exemption Form has been completed and mailed in.

veeflo@aol.com <veeflo@aol.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 12:14:42 PM EST

**Subject:** New area of concern that has surfaced regarding website

Dear Members and Friends, to keep you informed, we wanted to share with you that we have been notified by an organization called PicRights International Inc. that we alleged used images that were copyrighted on our website in 2021. This is a new area of concerns that we are facing as Pic Rights operates on behalf of the Associated Press and EPA photographers. We are being told that this is a copyright violation and were initially fined a total of \$1,875 for 5 images. The images used were all linked to an article that was posted for educational and religious education purposes. They in essence were part of the article.

Although we believe all rules of the Fair Use Act were applied and materials well sourced on our website, I was told that those rules of engagement do not apply to the use of these images on our website. Br. Benedict has worked tirelessly and continues to do so to ensure everything we do is in compliance and we thank him for all the hours he has donated to this.

The council is 100% committed to getting clarification on what the rules of engagement are and putting into place compliance with those rules if indeed they are not what we believe to be the case so this is not a recurring issue. We have spoken with a friend of the church who provided us with some attorneys that specialize in Intellectual property and copyright laws. We are moving forward with contacting an attorney to represent us.

We were able to negotiate an offer with PicRights due to our status as a Not for Profit Religious Corporation as well as the impact such a stiff fee would have on our church finances. The reduced fee is a 60% reduction to \$750. We were given a due date of February 14, 2025 to take advantage of the negotiated rate. We will be speaking with an attorney prior to that time to see if this is the best course of action for us at this time and how to proceed in the future.

I am bringing this to the attention of all our members and friends to first make you aware of the concern. Secondly, if you would like to assist with website maintenance expenses, please contact our treasurer Ed Askins. Any amount of donation would be beneficial. Also, if you know anyone who has copyright law experience that could help us moving forward, please let any council member know. We will keep you informed of any updated developments.

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support as we endeavor to do God's work together and give God glory and praise.

Christ Peace be with you,  
Veronica Floyd, Moderator Ray Of Hope

NOTES OF THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY GIVEN TO THE LORD THROUGH RAY OF HOPE

**General Offering** for the week of March 16 \$20.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
Wednesday, March 19, Attendance 9

**General Offering** for the week of March 23 \$721.45 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
Wednesday, March 26, Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of March 30 \$570.40 Attendance 13 on Sunday  
Wednesday, April 2, Attendance 13

**General Offering** for the week of April 6 \$896.40 Attendance 16 on Sunday  
Wednesday, April 9, Attendance 16

**\*\* Special Gifts made this week:** Wayne and Glenn donated \$100.00 to Building Fund and an air conditioning unit for the Carley Room. Thank you to both of you. Ian and Christina McLaughlin donated \$450.00 to the Building Fund, thank you both.

**\*\* Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts made recently\*\***

Katrina made a \$50.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you, Katrina.

Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you.

Thank you, Katrina for making two Membership Books and continuing working on the psalms for our use in worship. Thank you Wayne and Glenn for a \$200.00 donation to the Building Fund, and paper products for social hour and for the restroom.

We are always very grateful to everyone who helps around the Monastery; Christina, Katrina and others who stop in and lend a hand. Thank you to everyone who bakes for our social hours.

**\*\* We received a \$500.00 gift from the Novant Community Benefit Fund (Robinson), a donor-advised fund of The Winston-Salem Foundation. The advisor donors are Dr. Elwood and Denise Robinson, Veronica Floyd's sister and brother-in-law. We thank the Robinson's for their friendship, support, prayers and participation in the life and mission of Ray Of Hope Church through the years.**

Thank you, Katrina for a \$60.00 donation to the Pastor SE Tax line in the Budget.

Brother Benedict donated \$648.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you, Brother.

Wayne and Glenn donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you, Wayne and Glenn.

Thank you everyone who has made or purchased treats for our social times including Wayne, Glenn, Christina, Kaiden, Lisa, Katrina, Gary and Annie, Ruth, and Ed.

Thank you, Katrina for assisting with the research on the copyright issues, and helping in the Monastery with cleaning, cooking, running errands, spending many hours assisting with typing and clerical skills.

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and write "email list" in the Subject box.

### UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

**APRIL 13**, 2025 Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m. HOLY WEEK

**APRIL 17**, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 18**, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 19**, 2025 GREAT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OUR EASTER EVENT and the RITE OF MEMBERSHIP

Tuesday, April 22, Bible Enrichment 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. differences between the flood of Lucifer and the flood of Noah.

Wednesday, April 23, NOON Mass

Friday, April 25, Inquiries Class #6 Human Sexuality and the Bible

Inquiries Class #1 Friday March 14, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith

Inquiries Class #2 Friday March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith

Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Worship and Common Threads (Liturgical Calendar +)

Inquiries Class #4 Friday April 4, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice

Inquiries Class #5 Friday April 11, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice

**Inquiries Class #6 Friday April 25, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible**

Inquiries Class #7 Friday May 2, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

May 11, Sunday Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

May 29, Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday

June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 8, Sunday Pentecost

June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning

June 15, Sunday, Father's Day and 29th Ordination Anniversary

June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th)

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY



## We Are Sent Forth To Serve

**Leader - 2:** **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Leader - 2:** We bless and praise you, God, for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (\*+\*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**Leader - 2:** We pray Romans Chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together, saying:

**ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all Joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen** (Romans 15:13)

**Leader-4:** We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

**ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.**

### **ENDING SONG: (G&P #356) All Glory, Laud and Honor by Theodulph of Orleans**

Text: 76 76 D; Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 760–821; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635. Onelicense Song # 83962 Glory And Praise 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition #356, OCP Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization**,

**survival**, and **sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive**, **train**, and **transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.

We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.

We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or  
**RECONCILING CONGREGATION** for you.

We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**  
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

**WE ARE YOU!**

**THIS is the Church where YOU belong.**

**Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.**

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

**Made by you and for you, because we are**

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

**Elmira Worship-** Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .  
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 a.m.  
**Syracuse Worship-** looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information  
[Click Here](#).

**Bible Enrichment-** Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m.-380 W. First St. Parsonage  
/Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign  
on by 6:15 p.m. [Click Here](#).

**\*\* to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374\***

**Policy Concerning Minors at Events**

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with  
us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening  
environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which  
is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our website;  
[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors\\_At\\_Events.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and  
we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of  
Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was  
given a new name in Religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is not open to the general public, the way it used to be from 7:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.  
daily, as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you  
want some time to come in to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our  
regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and  
Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#)..  
Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [Click Here](#). We  
will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please  
indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes *only*.

(Optional) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be included on the church Email list.

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the Truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered Love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own Love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the World,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the Bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the World around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and Peace for all God's People and the Universe.

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Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Face book Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#). Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs)

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Scripture verses to share with others:—————

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all Joy and Peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 2:11, 3:4 The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing Salvation **to everyone**.

John 5:24 Those who hear my Word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the Book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

