

Hee

**"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 5-4-25, The Third Sunday of The Great 50 Days 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)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Acts 5:27 – 42 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 123

Psalm: 30 responsorial psalms in this bulletin.

Second Reading: Revelation 5: 1-14 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 248

Gospel: John 21:1-19 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 115

***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 1st 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. 1st 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, and we now celebrate victory and 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 our Loving Creating God is C.E.O, the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ, 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. 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 LGBTQSIAS+ 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 2nd ring will announce the start of the worship event.

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.

****Sunday, June 1, 2025, will be the TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.****

Pastor: Good Morning, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in who's 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 very best to help you worship God in Christ, with the powerful

ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today is May 4, 2025, The Third Sunday of the Resurrection during the Great Fifty Days, Year C.

RED Martyr dry martyr, wet martyr. People are feeling crushed under the weight of massive firings across the United States caused by the new President and His Administration. We will have more to say on this during the Sermon today. **Good news: Federal Judges ordered the Executive Administration to reinstate all Federal Employees who have been fired since the start of this Administration. (Source:

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/13/politics/judge-opm-probationary-employees-fired-hearing/index.html>)

The theme for the moment is "This is the Day that the Lord has made, we rejoice and we are glad." Psalm 118:24 in today's Psalm.

Pastor: We begin to worship God 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: G&P #399 Verses 1,2,4 online song sheet all three verses.b

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise Text: 87 87 D; Edward Caswall, 1814–1878. Music: St Basil's Hymnal, 1889. Contributor: HOLY ANTHEM Onlicense Song # 84068. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader - 2: Today, we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope to celebrate our Faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and recite these words of Jesus to celebrate the Truth they promise us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness

to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance.

Therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people. Scroll the page to see the panels on block 147.



These are the names on Block # 147

- George Silkworth (1)
- Unknown But Not Forgotten (2)
- Richard Cromley (3)
- Michael Abling (4)

- C. W. "Bill" Watson (5)
- Scott Mierding (6)
- Davie Gracie (7)
- Gary Lybrook (8)

(source: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones.

(pause for silent prayer.**)** May this candle's flame help bring to mind the Joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

SECOND SONG: Easter Song. Words and Music by Anne Herring

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WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) At this time we prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in Word and Sacrament by confessing our sins to Christ in silent prayer.

(silent prayer)

L-3: Filled with the Holy Spirit we are called to live a life of transformation and change to show forth Jesus, the Risen Christ of God. As the Body of

Christ we should speak out and stand up for the poor, the underpaid, and the homeless, but we bypass the opportunity. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-3: With Christ living in us we are able to understand and act upon the will of God. Therefore, we must discourage war, work to lessen poverty, and advocate for equal access to education and employment. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

L-3: We are baptized into Christ, we experience Him truly present. He sends us to go everywhere and welcome everyone into the Church of Jesus Christ. However, if we are honest, we may have to admit we have taken the path of least resistance too often, rather than face the cost of speaking up and out for the Gospel. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -2: 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. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to forgive me, and to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Pastor: May Almighty God 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 - 3: 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 thanks, We give You praise We give You thanks 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-4: The Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader-4: Together, we lift up our hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader-4: 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-4: 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.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

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

During the Seven Sundays leading up to Pentecost, the Great Fifty Days, we have two New Testament readings with the Gospel. Before this reading, we shall look at the article on the Sanhedrin as found in Wikipedia.

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanhedrin>)

Our first reading is in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 5, verses 27 – 42. You will find this on page 123 in the back, the second Testament of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

²⁷ The apostles were taken before the Sanhedrin, and the high priest began to interrogate them: ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach about that name, yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching—and you're determined to make us responsible for this Jesus' blood."

²⁹ To this, Peter and the apostles replied, "Better for us to obey God

than people! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors has raised Jesus, whom you put to death by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ This One, who has been exalted to God's right hand as Ruler and Savior, is to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³² We are eyewitnesses to this. And so is the Holy Spirit, who has been given to those who obey God." ³³ When the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and intended to kill the apostles.

³⁴ However, a member of the Sanhedrin—a Pharisee named Gamaliel, an authority on the Law and respected by the people—stood up and asked that the apostles be removed from the room.

³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Israelites, think twice about what you are going to do with these people. ³⁶ Not long ago, a certain Theudas came around and tried to pass himself off as someone important. About four hundred joined him. But when he was killed, all his followers scattered, and that was the end of it. ³⁷ Then there was Judah the Galilean, at the time of the census. He attracted supporters too, but when he was killed, his support dissipated. ³⁸ The present case is similar. My advice is that you leave these people alone and let them be. If this movement, this activity, is of human origin, it will destroy itself. ³⁹ If, on the other hand, it comes from God, not only will you be unable to destroy them, but you might find yourselves fighting against God." ⁴⁰ They took Gamaliel's advice, and called in the apostles and flogged them.

After ordering them not to speak again in the name of Jesus, they dismissed them. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin full of joy that they had been judged worthy to suffer shame for the sake of the Name. ⁴² Every day they preached in the Temple and in people's homes, continually proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

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+ 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 selected verses in Psalm 30 with a responsorial verse. Our response today is; "I praise you, LORD; You carried my soul from death to life."

R: I praise you, LORD; You carried my soul from death to life.

² I will praise you, LORD, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

⁴ O LORD, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

R: I praise you, LORD; You carried my soul from death to life.

⁵ Sing psalms to the LORD, you faithful ones, give thanks to his holy name.

⁶ God's anger lasts a moment; God's favor all through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

R: I praise you, LORD; You carried my soul from death to life.

¹¹ The LORD listened and had pity.

The LORD came to my help.

¹² For me you have changed my mourning into dancing, you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹³ So my soul sings psalms to you unceasingly.

O LORD my God, I will thank you for ever.

R: I praise you, LORD; You carried my soul from death to life.

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.

Psalm 30: I Will Praise You, Lord. (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #23458. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Brother Shawn F. Benedict

+ Second Reading

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

Our second reading is the Book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ, chapter 5, verses 1 through 14. You will find this on page 248 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

5:1 In the right hand of the One who sat on the throne, I saw a scroll. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals.

² Then I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth could be found to open the scroll or examine its contents. ⁴ I wept bitterly because no one could be found to open or examine the scroll.

⁵ One of the elders said to me, "Don't weep. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed and will open the scroll with the seven seals."

⁶ Then, between the throne with the four living creatures and the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, a Lamb that had been slain. It had seven horns and seven eyes; these eyes are the seven spirits of God sent to all parts of the world. ⁷ The Lamb came and received the scroll from the right hand of the One who sat on the throne.

⁸ When it had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp, and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's holy people. ⁹ This is the new hymn they sang:

"Worthy are you to receive the scroll
and break the seven seals,
for you were slain.

With your blood you purchased for God
members of every race and tongue,
of every people and nation.

¹⁰ You made of them a kindom,
priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then in my vision, I heard the voices of many angels who
surrounded the throne together with the living creatures and the
elders. They were numberless, thousands and tens of thousands, ¹²
and they all cried out:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and wealth,
wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and praise!"

¹³ Then I heard the voice of every creature in heaven, on the earth,
under the earth and in the sea. Everything in all creation cried aloud:

"To the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb,
be praise and honor,
glory and dominion,
forever and ever!"

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell on their
faces and worshiped.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(Revelation 5:1-14. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 3216-3217). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 791. 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.)

+ 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 115 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of John, chapter 21, verses 1-19.

Reader: Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John.

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.

21 :1 Later Jesus again was manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place.

² Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas "the Twin," Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's children, and two other disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to

them, "I'm going out to fish." "We'll join you," they replied, and went off to get into their boat. All through the night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. ⁵ He said to them, "Have you caught anything, friends?" "Not a thing," they answered. ⁶ "Cast your net off to the starboard side," Jesus suggested, "and you'll find something." So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn't haul the net in. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, "It's the Teacher!"

Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak—he was naked—and jumped into the water. ⁸ Meanwhile the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from land—no more than a hundred yards.

⁹ When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. ¹⁰ "Bring some of the fish you just caught," Jesus told them. ¹¹ Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish—one hundred fifty-three of them. In spite of the great number, the net was not torn. ¹² "Come and eat your meal," Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared to ask, "Who are you?"—they knew it was the savior. ¹³ Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon ben-John, do you love me more than these?" Peter said, "Yes, Rabbi, you know that I'm your friend." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time Jesus put the question, "Simon ben-John, do you love me?" Peter said, "Yes, Rabbi, you know that I'm your friend." Jesus replied, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ A third time Jesus asked him, "Simon ben-John, do you love me as a friend would?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, "Do you love me?" a third time. So he said, "You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ The truth of the matter is, when you were young, you put on your own belt

and walked where you liked;
 but when you get old,
 you will stretch out your hands
 and someone else will put a belt around you
 and take you where you don't want to go." ¹⁹ With these words, Jesus
 indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

(John 21:1-19. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 2923-2925). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 716. 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.)

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 - sts 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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+ Sermon

NOTES



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

REMINDER of this great resource that is available for your private study: *** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord <https://walvoord.com/series/328>

SEASON OF THE RESURRECTION 40 + 10 = The Great 50 Days.

Ascension Thursday is May 29 – 40 days. We will celebrate Ascension on Sunday, June 1st, which is also the 22nd Anniversary of the first public worship event in our chapel at 380 W. 1st St.

(Saturday, June 7 Elmira Pride)

Ten days from the actual Ascension Day (May 29) is Sunday, June 8 – the Feast of Pentecost – The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

(Saturday, June 14 Corning Pride)

June 15 – Trinity Sunday, Father's Day, and the 29th Anniversary of Ordination

1 This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to show the faithful what must soon take place. God made it known by sending an angel to John, a faithful servant, who, in writing down everything he saw testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near!

Over the next four Sundays our second reading will be from the Book of Revelation. Why during the Season of the Resurrection? Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega (Rev. 1:8, 21:6, and 22:13), the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18). Jesus has authority over the final events of this Age, and so,

we will read the highlights of those events during this season.

4-27-25 Week 2: Rev. 1:1-20

5-4-25 Week 3 Rev. 5:1-14

5-11-25 Week 4 Rev. 7:9-17

5-18-25 Week 5 Rev. 21:1-5

5-25-25 Week 6 Rev. 21: 10 – 27

6-1-25 Week 7 Ascension Sunday special readings Rev. 22:12-14,
16-17, 20

Jesus the Only Begotten Son John 1:1-5, 14 -18; 3:16,18; 1John 4:9;

Psalm 2:7 <http://rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm>

(<http://rayofhopechurch.com/files/Jesus%20the%20Only%20Begotten%20Son%20Of%20God.pdf>)

We learn about our resurrection bodies during this season.

Second Reading: Rev. 5:2 "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break open its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. 4 And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." Seeing Jesus in His resurrection body. (read the text again)

=====

Our second reading is the Book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ, chapter 5, verses 1 through 14. You will find this on page 248 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

5:1 In the right hand of the One who sat on the throne, I saw a scroll. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals.

(Commentary: The Prophet Daniel was told to roll up the scroll and seal the prophecy until the time of the end. See Daniel 12:4-9. This is the scroll featured here in the Book of Revelation. As The Lamb of God unseals it the realities of the Tribulation Period unfold.)

² Then I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth could be found to open the scroll or examine its contents. ⁴ I wept bitterly because no one could be found to open or examine the scroll.

⁵ One of the elders said to me, "Don't weep. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed and will open the scroll with the seven seals."

⁶ Then, between the throne with **the four living creatures and the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, a Lamb that had been slain.** It had seven horns and seven eyes; these eyes are the seven spirits of God sent to all parts of the world. ⁷ The Lamb came and received the scroll from the right hand of the One who sat on the throne.

⁸ When it had taken the scroll, **the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp, and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's holy people.** ⁹ This is the new hymn they sang:

"Worthy are you to receive the scroll
and break the seven seals,
for you were slain.

With your blood you purchased for God
members of every race and tongue,
of every people and nation.

¹⁰ You made of them a kingdom,
priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then in my vision, I heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne together with the living creatures and the elders. They were numberless, thousands and tens of thousands, ¹² and they all cried out:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and wealth,
wisdom and strength,

honor and glory and praise!"

13 Then I heard the voice of **every creature in heaven, on the earth, under the earth and in the sea. Everything in all creation** cried aloud:

"To the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb,
be praise and honor,
glory and dominion,
forever and ever!"

14 The four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell on their faces and worshiped.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(Revelation 5:1-14. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 3216-3217). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 791. 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.)

The Four Evangelists.



Traditionally, the symbols referring to the four evangelists are taken from the four living creatures portrayed in Ezekiel 1:5-21 and in Revelation 4:6-8.

Saint Matthew's gospel emphasizes the humanity of Christ and begins with his paternal genealogy, so his symbol is the Divine Man.

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." MATTHEW 1:1



Saint Mark speaks about the royal dignity of Christ, and begins his Gospel with Saint John the Baptist roaring like a lion:

"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" MARK 1:3

Thus his symbol is the Winged Lion.



In his gospel, Saint Luke portrays Christ as the sacrifice of atonement. He also emphasizes the priesthood, beginning his gospel with the appearance of the angel Gabriel in the temple in Jerusalem, to the priest

Zachariah, husband of Elizabeth. The Winged Ox, then, is symbolic of the sacrifice that Christ offered humbly and obediently for us all.

The Rising Eagle is assigned to Saint John because, in the words of Saint Augustine, "John...soars like an eagle above the clouds of human infirmity, and gazes upon the light of the unchangeable truth with those keenest and steadiest eyes of the heart." Saint John's lofty inspiration helped him reach the fullest revelation of the transcendence and immanence of Jesus Christ.



The pictures on this page are all taken from the Book of Kells. Saint Matthew holds his gospel in his left hand, and he stands against a throne with the symbols of the other evangelists surrounding him—almost glaring at him, it would seem! Again, it is Christ the man whom we see highlighted in Matthew's gospel.

As we view the lion of Saint Mark, note the color and imagery. Saint Gregory preached that Ezekiel's symbols portrayed the four stages of Christ's life: a man in His birth, an ox in His death, a lion in His resurrection, and an eagle in His ascension into heaven.

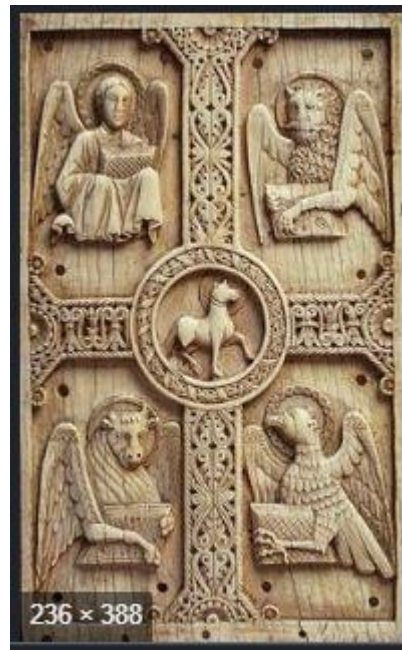


The winged ox signifying the sacrificial aspects of Christ's life and death symbolizes Luke and his gospel. Luke pays special attention to the ceremonies and services of the Levitical priesthood. He is the only one to mention the Presentation of Jesus as well as Mary and Joseph's finding of their 12-year-old Son after His three days' stay in the Temple with the teachers of the Law.

Saint John's gaze pierces far and above that of any other evangelist in his apocalyptic vision as he is told by Jesus: "Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards." REVELATION 1:19



Pope John Paul II wrote that the Gospel of John, and especially its prologue, "is a unique *synthesis* that expresses the faith of the apostolic Church."





We learn about our resurrection bodies during this season: Even the lake's creatures are thrilled to testify that Jesus is the Divine Son of God: the fish jump into the nets, knowing it will be their death. Notice Jesus says: "Come and have breakfast" vs. 12 Luke 24:36-43 ³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ^[a] ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ^[b] ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

*** * * Keeping Watch* * *** On Sunday, January 19, 2024, I wrote the following in the bulletin. Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment. (Source: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:-:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20\(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:-:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.)) NPR story on the ERA <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/17/nx-s1-5264378/biden-era-national-archivist-constitution>

*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:

--	--



(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: OFFERTORY

All Creation Worships You. Words and Music by Jim Mills and Kirk Dearman

Chorus

You are God and we praise You

(And we praise You)

You are Lord we acclaim You

(We acclaim You)

You are eternal Father

All creation worships You

All creation worships You

Amen

All Creation Worships You. Words and Music by Jim Mills, Kirk Dearman ©1988 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Administered by Integrity Music) CCLI Song # 190469 All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152 with accompaniment recording: All Creation Worships You. Album: The Cup of Life. Songs of Worship for the New Millennium. Track 5 | Length 4:49 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 4: 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 4: 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.

5-4-25 Resurrection Season 3rd Sunday, Year C Page 32 of 45
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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit **Epiclesis**

Leader - 3: 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. This prayer asking for action by the Holy Spirit is called an Epiclesis prayer. 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**

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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 now. 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: O Sons and Daughters G&P 379

Text: O filii et filiae; Jean Tisserand, d.1494; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Tune: O FILII ET FILIAE, 888 with alleluias: Mode III acc. by Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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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 dry cleaning 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 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

General Offering for the week of April 13 \$0.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday
Holy Thursday Attendance 11 Special offering received for Liturgical Supplies: \$40.
Good Friday Attendance 13

General Offering for the week of April 20 \$100.00 Attendance 13 on Holy Saturday Vigil of the
Resurrection

General Offering for the week of April 27 \$792.40 Attendance 10 on Sunday
Wednesday, April 9, Attendance 5

**** Special Gifts made this week:**

Ian and Christina made a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you both.

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

Katrina Lourdiane \$20.00 for Liturgical supplies, thank you. Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund for April, thank you. Wayne and Glenn donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund and an air conditioning unit for the Carley Room. Thank you to both of you, Wayne and Glenn. Ian and Christina McLaughlin donated \$450.00 (for March) to the Building Fund, thank you both.

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

Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund for March, 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.**

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 and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

May 4, Sunday Resurrection 3rd Sunday in the Great 50 Days
May 6, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment. The flood of Lucifer and the flood of Noah session #4
May 7, Wednesday, 12:00 Noon Mass

May 11, Sunday, Mother's Day, and Foundresses Day
May 29, Thursday Council at 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.
June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday – 22nd Anniversary of the first public worship event in our chapel at 380 W. 1st St., the start of PRIDE MONTH
June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira
June 8, Sunday Pentecost
June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning
June 15, Sunday, Trinity Sunday, Father's Day, and the 29th Ordination Anniversary
June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th) at Ray Of Hope
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: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks G&P 389

Words and Music by Donald Fishel Text: Donald Fishel, b.1950, © 1973, Word of God Music. Tune: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications Text: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications. Oneliscence Song # 71342 Ritual Song 581 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

or

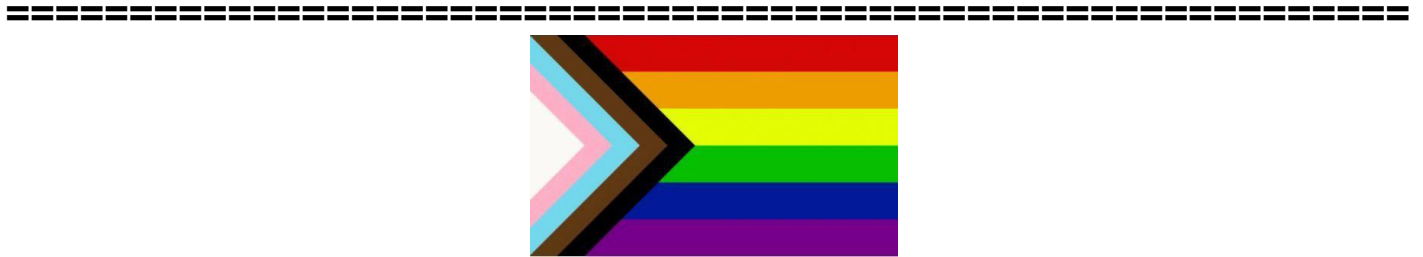
G&P 378 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia

Text: 77 77 with alleluias; Verse 1, Latin, 14th cent.; para. in Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Verses 2-3, *The Compleat Psalmist*, ca. 1750, alt.; Verse 4, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Later form of melody fr. Lyra Davidica, 1708. Contributors: EASTER HYMN, Lyra Davidica, Lyra Davidica. Glory and Praise Second Edition #378 Onlicense # 84000 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. 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.

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

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)

