



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“My House shall be a house of prayer for All People.”

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Thirty-eighth year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,
make disciples of every person everywhere.

(Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory.”

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

A very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: “Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God” Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as you feel 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 a time of refreshments and sharing.

April 3, 2021 – Year B

Holy Week, The Vigil Of The Resurrection

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.”



Liturgy Of Gathering And Call To Worship

Welcome: Kaiden Rae Benedict: Everyone is welcome to the continuation of our celebration of Holy Week, “the week that changed the world.” Tonight we celebrate the Great Vigil of the Resurrection of Our Lord. We invite you to participate in all parts of the worship as you feel comfortable. To prepare for this evening you may want to bring to your table:

- 1) a taper or votive candle for each person at the service,
- 2) another special candle – a pillar candle or one in a glass of you have it,

- 3) a piece of bread or cracker or matzah,
- 4) a cup and some grape juice or wine,
- 5) a small cup of water and some side napkins
- 6) a small bowl of water,
- 7) a small branch to sprinkle your water,
- 8) some side napkins.

We will use all of these items during the worship tonight. We will pause a few moments now so all our viewers at home may gather these items. When you hear the chimes ring we will start the service.

+ Chimes Ring

Welcome continued: Kaiden Rae Benedict: You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans 15: 7 we are commanded to:

ALL: *“Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God”* Romans 15:7



The Service Of Light

Lisa Frost: The first part of the Great Vigil centers around fire and light, a visible sign of Christ, who proclaimed Himself the Light of the world, and who has baptized us in the fire of the Holy Spirit as He promised. Jesus also declared we are the Light of the world in Matthew 5:14 and then sent us out to be that Light in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the fire and passion of this divine love, we are called to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. So now we celebrate light and fire, the True Light, and the source of the Fire of our Divine Love, our Christ.

Pastor Benedict: Dear friends in Christ,

+ **Blessing Of The Fire** * * * * EPICLESIS* * * *

ALL: O Loving, Only One and Eternal TRUE God, who was, who is, and lives forevermore; with grateful hearts we share in the light of your glory through your Only Begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus

the Only and True Christ, the light of the world.

We ask you to make this new fire holy by the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In flame us with new hope. Holy Spirit, purify our minds by this Resurrection celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light without the loss of any of your people.

We humbly ask these things and we make these prayers in Your name oh God, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

+ Dedication Of The Candle Of Hope

Kaiden Benedict: At this time we dedicate the Resurrection Candle Of Hope. This candle stands in the midst of our worship assembly as a constant reminder of our own eternal destiny in the fullness of the resurrection when all will be made one in God. Then there will be a new Heavens, and a new Earth and new Life for all created beings. Friends, here is another * * EPICLESIS * * as we make this prayer of blessing and dedication together.

ALL: O God, we dedicate this candle as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of all your people in the fullness of time. By the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, bless and make holy this candle that proclaims: Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to Christ and all the ages. To Christ be glory and power through every age forever. Amen.

Ian McLaughlin: By His holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us, and keep us, today and always. Amen.
Together we proclaim;

ALL: May the light of Christ, continue to rise in glory, dispel the darkness of the world, cleanse the desires of our hearts, and cleanse the thoughts of our minds so that we may love and serve God more perfectly now and always. Amen.

LIGHT THE CANDLES: Seeing as there will not be a procession we will

sing:

“Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light, shine in your church gathered today.” (three times)

Veronica Floyd: Please extinguish your taper candles at this time. Dear friends in Christ, we have begun our solemn vigil. It is time to listen attentively as we remember the wonderful works of God. Tonight we review how God has saved the people throughout the story of humanity on Earth, and how in the fullness of time, God sent the Only Begotten Son to be our Redeemer.

Through this celebration tonight, may God bring to perfection the saving work God has begun in each of us.



Liturgy Of The Word

Lisa Frost: The first reading is a meditation, and embellishment of Genesis Chapter 1:1, 26-31a. It is written by Br. Benedict, who takes sole responsibility for the theology presented here. Be comfortable and meditate on the images as I read this narration.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yes, as a single act of love, God gave and moved into reality the Universe with all of its star systems, all of its galaxies, moons, and planets coming and going in all directions of an ever-living, ever becoming, and evolving Creation. Truly there is God’s living presence everywhere throughout this Universe and it all started with one act of Divine Love.

After a period of time not disclosed in our Scriptures, after the time described by St. Peter in Chapter 3, verses 5,6,and 7 as “the world that then existed” God set out to refashion and reorder anew the previously fallen world system that had perished under

God's Divine Judgment. This is what Jesus witnessed when He said: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" as recorded in Luke 10:18. This world is affectionately known as the Pre-Adamite, Pre-Adamic world, and other names.

In the acts of restoring the Earth God said: "Let us create a new humanity, the new human race in our own image, after our very likeness. We intend to give to humanity the restored Earth and We intend to bring from this humanity our Own Self in human form to live and reign and rule over this restored and new creation.

And We commission our created humanity to take care of, to cherish, and in this way to have custodial parental divine charge over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, yes over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

So God did as stated in these intentions and God created the human race in the very likeness and image of God; in the image of God's own Divine Being; both male and female, God created our human race. We are made out of the very clay, the very soil and dust of this planet. Having made us out of the dirt, the clay, the dust, and elements of this planet, God breathed God's own breath into our clay physical bodies. With the very breath of God within our earthen bodies, we are like earthen vessels, earthen jars, clay pottery and we hold and have the breath of life, the very presence of God within us. We shall return to the dust of the Earth at our last breath until the divinely appointed time when we are resurrected by the all-powerful and glorious; "glory" of God in Christ, Jesus, the Resurrection, and the Life. Stop and consider, stop and right now look around at each person in this holy place

of worship and realize, we are that same human race, the very creation of God in God's own image.

God blessed us, and gave us commandments, saying:
"Be fertile and multiply; replenish the earth and take care of it, take custodial care of my gift to you, this beautiful Planet Earth."

Additionally God also said to us, the human race:
"See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food."

And so it happened. God provided for every living thing not only for that age, but for all ages going forward so that we would have life and as Jesus said, we would have it more abundantly.

God looked at everything created out of love, out of a self extension of God's own creating self, and found it very good. God has given us this beautiful place the planet we call Earth. The Earth is a gift and will never come to a full end according to the Sacred Scriptures, the Holy Bible, the very Word Of God.

Reader: This is a meditation and explanation of the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Song: I Worship You Almighty God. Ntbk #4

Reader: **Veronica Floyd:** The second reading is in the book of Isaiah Chapter 55:1-11 with John 4:13-14 and John 7:38-39.

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

We pause here and remember our Creating God has chosen water to sustain us, to refresh the earth, and Jesus gives us Himself as the Living Water. Jesus said to the woman at the well of Jacob: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it was who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.' ... Whoever drinks of the natural water of the well will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never thirst. The water that I shall give will become a fountain of water springing up to everlasting life." (John 4:13-14)

And in John Chapter 7, in verses 37 – 39 we hear the voice of Jesus saying: "If anyone thirsts, let them come to Me and drink. Those who believe in Me, as Scripture has said, out of their heart will flow rivers of living water." John, the Beloved Disciple then writes: Jesus was speaking concerning the Holy Spirit, whom those believing in Jesus would receive: "for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

So, now, lets go back to this universal prophecy in Isaiah inviting the whole human race to the Christ of God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Living Water.

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!

You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;

come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.

Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,
the benefits assured to David.
As I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of nations,
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,
because of the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my Word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my Word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Michael Quinnell: The third reading is in the book of Acts, the Day Of Pentecost when God the Holy Spirit used the WIND and the FIRE to refresh our covenant relationship and give birth to the Church Of Jesus Christ. John said the living water was the Holy Spirit that had not yet been given. In this reading, we hear the testimony of the giving of the Holy Spirit, the Living Water of Christ, and the start of the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Acts 2:1-8 and 11-21

Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Crowd's Response

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

Michael: Now we begin at verse 11

¹¹ we hear them speaking in our own languages of the wonderful works of God." ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" ¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

Peter's Sermon

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day.

¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;

And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above

And signs in the earth beneath:

Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

²¹ And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Reader: **Ian McLaughlin:** The fourth reading is in the book of
Romans 6:3-11

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of God,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with Christ through a death like
His, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

As to his death, he died to sin once and for all;

as to his life, he lives for God.

Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Response: Kaiden Benedict: Our responsorial tonight is Psalm 99 and the response is: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

¹ The Lord is King;

let the people tremble;

The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim;

let the earth shake.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

² The Lord is great in Zion;

and is high above all peoples.

³ Let them confess God's Name, which is great and awesome;

for God alone is the Holy One.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

⁴ "O mighty King, lover of justice,

you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God

and fall down before God's footstool;

For God Alone is the Holy One.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

⁶ Moses and Aaron are among God's priests,

and Samuel among those who call upon the Name of The Lord,
they called upon the Lord, and were answered.

⁷ God spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept God's testimonies and decrees given to them.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

⁸ "O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds."

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship God upon this holy hill;
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

+ The Holy Gospel of the Resurrection+

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 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: The Gospel reading is on page 90 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 1 through 12.

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.

At daybreak on the first day of the week
the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus
took the spices they had prepared
and went to the tomb.
They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered,
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.
They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.
They said to them,
“Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.
Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee,
that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners
and be crucified, and rise on the third day.”
And they remembered his words.
Then they returned from the tomb
and announced all these things to the eleven
and to all the others.
The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother
of James;
the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles,
but their story seemed like nonsense
and they did not believe them.
But Peter got up and ran to the tomb,
bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone;
then he went home amazed at what had happened.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Benedict: Together we once again make our proclamation of faith:
Christ Our Lord is risen from the dead.

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gloria is prayed at this time.

Spoken:

Glory to God in the highest,

**and peace to God's people on earth.
You are the One God, Sovereign of the universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
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.**

**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 the
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

+ Sermon+



Liturgy Of Response to the Word Of God

+ Rite Of Membership: Kenneth Richard Ryan, now known as Kaiden Rae Benedict is celebrating the anniversary of one year in Membership.

+ Statement of Faith, Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Leader: The first part of our service was begun with fire. Now we begin the second part of our service with water. We have heard the Revelation of the Light of God, all of Creation, and the Fire of divine love in the Word, now we Respond with the renewal of our commitment in the waters of Baptism. ** If you are at home you may stop and bring a small bowl of water to the table at this time, and a branch if you want to sprinkle it or you may touch it when it is time. ***(Wait to see if anyone goes to get water ready.)*** At this time

we ask the Holy Spirit to make this water Holy for God's action in our lives, just as we asked the Holy Spirit to make the fire Holy at the start of our worship tonight.

PASTOR BENEDICT: We pray together:

ALL: O Loving God we ask your Holy Spirit to come into this water and make it Holy as we set this water aside to renew our Baptism. Give to us the Holy Spirit as Living Water to well up from within us forever as we rededicate our lives and our will to your service, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Leader: At this time we invite anyone who wishes to renew your statement of faith and rededicate your life to Christ to rise as you are able and answer the three sections of the Apostles' Creed. After each question please respond by saying aloud the text that is in bold print. We begin.

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

PASTOR BENEDICT: Do you believe in God?

**I believe in the One Eternal, Loving, Life-Giving,
Forgiving, Good, and Gracious God,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

PASTOR BENEDICT: What do you understand and testify to concerning Jesus, born in Bethlehem, the Christ of God?

**I believe in Jesus the Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
our Lord and Saviour.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God.**

Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

PASTOR BENEDICT: Do you proclaim the Holy Spirit as God and the power of God in the Church of Christ?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is equal with God and the Son.

**I believe in the one, holy, Christian Church, the Body of Jesus Christ that is universal/catholic, and apostolic.
I believe in the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen**

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

PASTOR BENEDICT: Now we sprinkle the water on each other as a reminder of our baptism into Christ.

+ Silent Prayers of Intercession+

Preparation of Holy Communion Tables at Home.

+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.

Leader - 1: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. At this time we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. During our COVID Infection Prevention procedures, we have many ways you can continue to support this ministry. To be directed to our website where you may make a secure Paypal donation using any debit or credit card, and you do not have to have a Paypal account to use this, [Right Click Here](#). Those in the chapel may use the offering plate, or you may send your donation to Lisa Frost directly or

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to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. Elmira, NY 14901. We always
say give what you can, but never give your last.

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. The ideal situation is you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event **SOON**. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*)

(* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set. A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. *)

SONG: ALLELUIA

Leader -2: (*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

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: Please lift your bread at this time as I pray this prayer.

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that 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.

Pastor: Please set down your bread.

Now pour your wine or grape juice into your cup, if you have not done so already. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human, and with this fruit of the vine we remember He is divine forever.

Now, please lift your cup with me at this time as I pray this prayer.

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that 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.

Pastor: Please set down your cup.

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: Together we lift up our hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: Together we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

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

***** the people may be invited to offer prayers of thanks and praise.

***** the Pastor continues with a Eucharistic Prayer.

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.

+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Pastor: Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I 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 Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

Pastor: Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

**ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.**

(pause for adoration**) (**you may bow or genuflect if you choose to**)**

Pastor: Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He

gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

(pause for adoration**) (**you may bow or genuflect if you choose to**)**

Pastor: Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

+ The Mystery Of Faith

a) Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

+ Prayers of Dedication and/or Intercession for other Ministries.

Pastor (or other person designated): While we are gathered here together we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere would recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, Almighty God. We also pray that religious leaders will guide people to work for liberty and justice for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers, and those with no faith or formal Religion.

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Please elevate the Holy Eucharist as a gesture of praise, thanksgiving, honor, gratitude, and the offering of the entire Church, the Body Of Christ, to God.

Pastor: Together we pray:

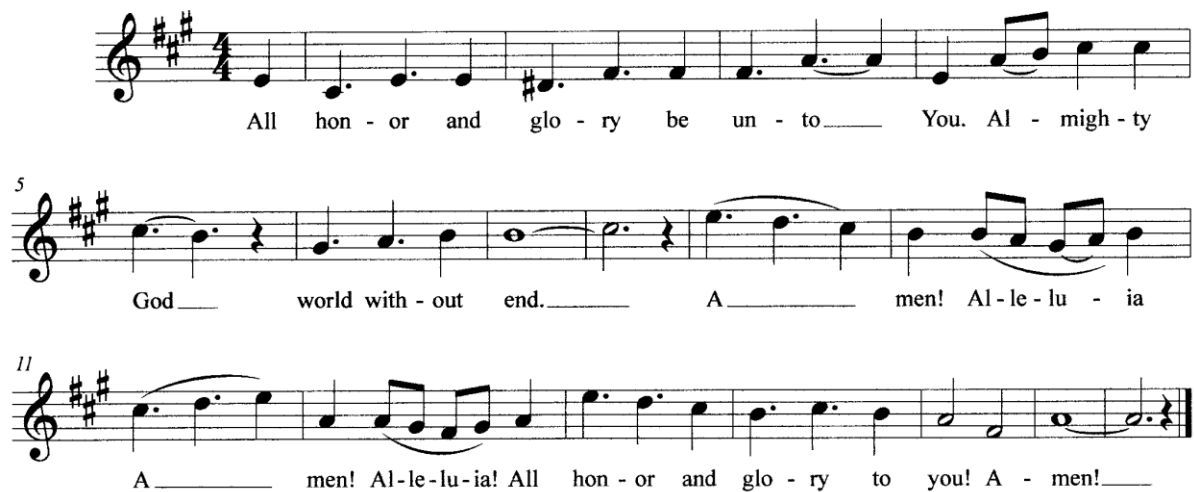
ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

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! ____

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The Reception of Holy Communion

+ The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Having heard the Word of God and having remembered 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**

+ Sign Of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

+ The Lamb Of God

Pastor: Please break the bread as we pray together:

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

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

Pastor: You may set the bread down and pray silently as I pray this prayer.

+ Priestly Prayer For All People

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in your love and your mercy we now partake of your body and blood as you commanded. We pray that our participation does not bring us condemnation as St. Paul warned, but sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit. We pray that all God's people will one day be reassembled without the loss of anyone in your kingdom of love and glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN

+ Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor: At this time I ask you to lift with me the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastor: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Behold Jesus 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. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word I am healed. (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)

Pastor: Please set down the Bread and Cup at this time.

Pastor: I assure you, by His promises, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will surely live forever and be raised by Christ to new life.

Leader-1: Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception.

Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I 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, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

SONG: Be Not Afraid G&P # 602



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

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)

Pastor: We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

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

CLOSING SONG: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today G&P #37

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 AM – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .

Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 AM.

Syracuse Worship- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information

[Click Here.](#)

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30-8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery.

Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15

PM. [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 web site;

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 at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

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*.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

Other _____



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 on line:

Our website: www.rayofhopechurch.com Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here.](#)

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtgs

—————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)