



# 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 Forty-first 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.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (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 8-11-24 Pentecost Week 13,  
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
The Bread of Life, Week three of five.  
Feast of Saint Clare of Assisi, Virgin

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: \*\*\* these readings were chosen for this event.

**First Reading:** 1Kings 19:4-8 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 326 "...he went in the strength of that food..."

**Psalm:** 34:2-9 with a responsorial verse in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 4:30-5:2 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 194

**Third Reading: Gospel:** John 6:35-51 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 98 **BREAD OF LIFE WEEK**  
**3 of 5 (Advent has 4 weeks, Lent has 6)**

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

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As the 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.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005u. 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 in 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. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. 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.\*\*\*) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the

second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion.

People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of Bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

**Leader-1:** Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



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

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



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

**Leader – 2:** (\*\* Reader, look up at the people and smile.\*\*) Thank you for spending time with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, 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.

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

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

**Pastor:**

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

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

Today is August 11, 2024, Pentecost Week 13, the nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, in the cycle of Scripture readings known as the Lectionary. Today is also the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin and companion of St. Francis of Assisi. As noted above, our bell is dedicated to the honor of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. As stated above in this bulletin, our bell is a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY. Today is also week three in the five-week study of John Chapter 6, the Bread of Life, in the Lectionary. Theologians of every major denomination worked together to organize this schedule of readings as far back as the late 1960s. There must have been consensus, which must continue to this day, that John Chapter 6 is essential to understanding ourselves as Christians. Notably, there are four weeks in the Season of Advent and six weeks in the Season of Lent. Therefore, setting aside five weeks on the Bread of Life indicates this topic is significant. We shall see if you agree that John Chapter 6 is vital in 2024 as we study it together. This church's goal is to show us how to bring Christ to every area of our lives.



We are here to give God thanks and praise for the glorious truths we have been educated in by the gifts of the Holy Scriptures, the Tradition of the Church, the deposit of faith, and the teaching power of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for Christ among us. (see 2Timothy 1:13-14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1%3A13-14&version=NRSVUE>)(see John 1:14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A14&version=NRSVUE>.)

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

## + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader - 1:** Please be seated. Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to show by this action of lighting this candle again that we 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. I invite you to say these words of Jesus again 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/AIDS. Our witness to God's love for all people is as relevant today as it was then. Here we are forty-one years later, and some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. In a letter we recently received from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, we learn every minute that someone somewhere contracts HIV; today, right now, think



about it. In the year 2023, 1.5 million people became newly infected, and 650,000 people, including some from the United States, died of AIDS-related causes.

HIV/AIDS is still with us; 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.

(for more information about amfAR: <https://www.amfar.org/about-amfar/>)

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 125.



Names on Block #125

- Bill\* (1)
- Jim\* (1)

- Paul\* (1)
- Bill Bell (2)
- Paul Harman (3)
  - Bill\* (4)
  - Jim\* (4)
  - Paul\* (4)
- Richard Brooks (5)
- Johannes Mueller (6)
  - Bob Brown (7)
  - Alberto Martin (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: He's Worthy. Words and Music by Sandra Crouch © 1985**

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**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

## + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

**Leader 3:** Please be seated. (wait) So far, we assembled, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter twenty-four, verse forty-seven, Jesus instructed the Church "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

**Leader 3:** Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses eight and nine: "<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above the announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

At this time, in silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, then confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ to receive His immediate forgiveness.

(silent prayer for time to confess our sins.) (\*\*Leader, please count to 20\*\*.)

**Leader 3:** Now, we pray together:

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

**Leader -1:** O Loving God, we could give more time to prayer, reading the Scriptures, and participating in ministry. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader -1:** Many religious, political, and social movements promote division and distrust. We could better respond to the disinformation with



the Gospel truth and principles: Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -1:** Being made your image, Lord, we should not participate in systemic racism, homophobia, exclusion, sexism, and other divisive ideologies; Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -1:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

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

**Leader-3:** Jesus told the Church to forgive sins in His Name. Jesus said:

**ALL: If you forgive people their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive people their sins, neither will your Father forgive your sins." (Matt. 6:14-15) Jesus also told us to forgive our brothers and sisters from the heart. (Matt. 18:35).**

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

**ALL: Therefore, we, the faith community of Ray Of Hope Church, openly declare 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 to sing "The Gloria."

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

Amen; We  
We give You thanks and praise!  
Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

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

89

A men

A men. Al - le - lu - ia.

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



## + Opening Prayer

**Leader-2:** We are prepared and ready now to hear the Holy Scriptures for this Sunday worship gathering. Pray silently with me as I pray this opening prayer. (\*\*wait a few seconds\*\*) Come Holy Spirit, and open our minds to understand and apply your Word in our lives. We ask this in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**Leader-2:** Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

**ALL: We read God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.**



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

**Reader:** \*\*\*\* **If an introduction is needed:**\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is \_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The first reading is in the Book of First Kings, chapter 19, verses 4-8 on page 326 in the first testament of the 1989 pew edition of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading the 2021 updated version. In this reading, God feeds the Prophet Elijah miraculously in the person of The Angel Of The Lord. Here begins the reading:

<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup> He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." <sup>8</sup> He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

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**+ Psalm** \*\*\*\* **If an introduction is needed.**\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is \_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

Today's Psalm is number 34, verses two through nine, with a responsorial verse: "Lord, you give us the true bread from heaven, alleluia."

**R: Lord, you give us the true bread from heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>2</sup> I will bless the Lord at all times,  
God's praise always on my lips;  
<sup>3</sup> in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

**R: Lord, you give us the true bread from heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>4</sup> Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise God's name.  
<sup>5</sup> I sought the Lord and was heard;  
from all my terrors set free.

**R: Lord, you give us the true bread from heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>6</sup> Look towards God and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
<sup>7</sup> When the poor cry out the Lord hears them  
and rescues them from all their distress.

**R: Lord, you give us the true bread from heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>8</sup> The angel of the Lord is encamped  
around those who fear God, to rescue them,  
<sup>9</sup> Taste and see that the Lord is good.

They are happy who seek refuge in God.

**R: Lord, you give us the true bread from heaven, alleluia.  
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 for ever. A-men.**

Text of Psalm 34 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #11127. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Response verse and Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

## + Second Reading

**Reader: \*\*\*\* If an introduction is needed:\*\*\*\*** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The second reading is in the Book of Ephesians, Chapter 4, verse 30 through Chapter 5, verse two. The 1989 NRSV Bible has this reading on page 194 in the second testament. I will be reading from the updated edition of 2021. Here begins the reading:

<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.<sup>[a]</sup> **5** <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and walk in love, as Christ loved us<sup>[b]</sup> and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full Chapter](#)

### Footnotes

- a. [4.32](#) Other ancient authorities read *us*
- b. [5.2](#) Other ancient authorities read *you*

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

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

### Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church      "Music for Worship"      Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993  
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al - le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is John, Chapter 6:35-51 on page 98 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version.

**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.**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away, <sup>38</sup> for I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

<sup>41</sup> Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup> They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)



(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A35-51&version=NRSVUE>.  
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See notice above the announcements in this bulletin.)

## Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!



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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

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

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 **Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.**   
 The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st year in Ministry.

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

## + Sermon

**Br. Shawn Benedict, Pastor.**

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

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Light will shine

out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

***"On August 11, we celebrate the feast day of St. Francis' partner in holiness, St. Clare of Assisi."*** (Bret Thoman, OFS)

**Chiara Offreduccio b. July 16, 1194, to d. August 11, 1253.**

Clare entered the then all-male Franciscan Order on Palm Sunday, March 20, 1212, and lived her remaining 41 years as a Sister under the Rule of the Franciscans. Eventually, more than fifty women joined Clare at San Damiano, including three other family members, her mother, and two blood sisters. Clare was the first woman to write a Rule for monasteries that the Pope approved. Clare started the Order of Poor Ladies, which followed strict poverty, and after her death, in her honor, the women renamed it the Order of Saint Clare, today commonly known as The Poor Clares. There are Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and Independent houses of The Poor Clares today, numbering about 30,000 women worldwide.



( Fresco of Saint Clare and sisters of her order, church of [San](#)

[Damiano, Assisi](#) photograph by [Gunnar Bach Pedersen](#) - Self-photographed [Permission details](#)

This is a faithful photographic reproduction of a two-dimensional, [public domain](#) work of art.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clare\\_of\\_Assisi#/media/File:SDamiano-Clara\\_og\\_s%C3%B8stre.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clare_of_Assisi#/media/File:SDamiano-Clara_og_s%C3%B8stre.jpg) 

There are special readings selected for the Feast of St. Clare in the Lectionary. Since the theology of the Franciscan charism aligns so beautifully with our own at Ray Of Hope, I decided to share with you some of the highlights of the readings for St. Clare.

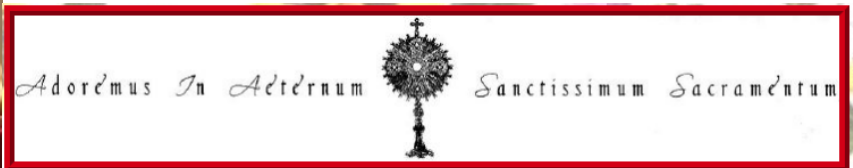
**First reading Philippians 3:8-14** "I consider everything as a loss (rubbish) when I consider knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I depend on my faith to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and I share in His sufferings that I may be conformed to His Death, if somehow I may receive from Him the resurrection from the dead."

**Psalm 16** For You Are My God. Keep me safe, for in You I take refuge. You are my portion and my cup, you alone are my joy. I bless You for your counsel, even at night You counsel me and my hear exhorts me. I set the Lord before me always, nothing shall disturb me with the Lord at my side. You, Lord, show me the path for my life, to be in your presence is the fullness of joy. Eternal happiness for me is to be at your side forever.

**Gospel Matthew 5:3** Blessed are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

**Matthew 19:27-29**

<sup>27</sup> Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or<sup>l</sup> children or fields for my name's sake will receive a hundredfold<sup>l</sup> and will inherit eternal life. (NRSVUE)




Adoremus in aeternum sanctissimum sacramentum.  
Let us adore forever the Most Holy Sacrament.

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/MeetThePastor.htm>



Clare of Assisi. Artist: Simone Martini (-1344) Fresco 1322-1326 (69 years after the death of Clare in 1253). Painted into the walls of the lower church of St. Francis of Assisi. (Source: The Yorck Project (2002) 10.000 Meisterwerke der

Malerei (DVD-ROM), distributed by [DIRECTMEDIA](#) Publishing GmbH. ISBN: [3936122202](#). Public Domain   
([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Simone\\_Martini\\_047.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Simone_Martini_047.jpg))

There is plenty to read about Clare; here is just one website: (<https://aleteia.org/2021/08/11/a-pilgrimage-in-the-footsteps-of-st-clare-of-assisi>). St. Clare had an intense love of the Eucharist.

Article: <https://aleteia.org/2021/08/11/st-clare-and-her-intense-love-of-the-eucharist> .

**Today is week three of a five-week study on John Chapter 6** to explain the Doctrine of Jesus, who gives himself to us in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation commonly referred to as Holy Communion, The Eucharist, The Lord's Supper, and many other names including The Blessed Sacrament.

## REFLECTIONS ON TODAY'S READINGS

The Angel Of The Lord = Summary on page 341 of the Scofield III, NKJV Bible (find to [order here](#)) Christ in his pre-incarnate form appearing, meaning to be manifested visibly, to save a believer from peril or even death.

In the first reading, 1 Kings 19:4-8, Elijah is on the run because Jezebel is furious that all of her priests died in the challenge to Elijah and his God. Elijah has run "a day's journey" vs. 4, resting under a juniper tree when the Angel of the Lord comes to him twice, touching and speaking to him. The Angel of the Lord has a body that can talk, touch, move, and transcend the natural laws of physics. The Angel of the Lord also provided bread from heaven, the bread of the angels, the bread of life to sustain Elijah, both his physical and spiritual well-being. Does any of this sound familiar, like in our prayer of consecration over the Eucharist? Last week, we had Exodus 16:4<sup>4</sup>. Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain Bread from Heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day."

Two weeks ago, we read 2 Kings 4:43b, where Elisha tells the servant to give the people the barley loaves to the people: So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD: They shall eat and have some left."

Today's reading, the Bread is indeed from Heaven, the Food of the Angels, giving life physically and spiritually. Do notice Elijah and The Angel of the Lord are on the way to the Mountain of God, and the Angel of the Lord is providing the Bread and showing Elijah the Way, or the road, to the Mountain of God. Jesus is the True Bread from Heaven, and He is showing us the Way, the road to the Father's House (John 14:1-7).

=====

I invite us to consider again the titles we have from Scripture.

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 Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1 Corinthians 10:16).

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)

Today's Psalm 34 speaks loudly of our place as believers in Christ filled with the Eucharist, the Bread from Heaven. We "bless the Lord at all times" (vs. 2). The praise of God is always on our lips (vs. 3). We pray; glorify the Lord with me (vs. 4). Together, we praise God's name. "It is right to give God thanks and praise." (vs 4b). In verse 8, "The Angel of the Lord is encamped around those who fear God, to rescue them," The Angel of the Lord is always there to rescue us. Again, please consult The Angel Of The Lord = Summary on page 341 of the Scofield III, NKJV Bible for further study on this Doctrine.

In today's second reading, Ephesians 4:30-5:2, we learn we can grieve the Holy Spirit. How do we grieve the Holy Spirit? There are many ways to sadden the Holy Spirit with our thoughts, words, deeds, and intentional omissions. Today's



second reading states we sadden the Holy Spirit when we do not recognize the Body of Christ as described in 1 Corinthians 11:29 (<sup>29</sup>For all who eat and drink<sup>al</sup> without discerning the body<sup>al</sup> eat and drink judgment against themselves. NRSVUE ). Applying this to the second reading, we fail to recognize the Body of Christ when we mistreat each other, when we are not kind, when we are bitter, when we are angry, when we participate in slander.... and these are not just in general but specific to how we treat others inside the Church and then by extension to others outside the Church.

At the start of the worship, we say "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE) In Ephesians 4:32, we have the following: "Forgive one another, then, as God in Christ has forgiven you." In the Episcopal prayer book, the offertory may begin with Ephesians 5:2: "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

=====Real Presence=====

*Ignatius of Antioch, in 110 AD says, "Take note of those who hold heretical opinions on the grace of Jesus Christ which has come to us, and see how contrary their opinions are to the mind of God. . . . They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Saviour Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes" (Letter to the Smyrnaeans 6:2–7:1).*

*Ignatius also writes, "I have no taste for corruptible Food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the Bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, who was of the seed of David; and for drink I desire his blood, which is love incorruptible" (Letter to the Romans 7:3).*

*Justin Martyr in 151AD says, "We call this food Eucharist, and no one else is permitted to partake of it, except one who believes our teaching to be true and who has been washed in the washing which is for the remission of sins and for regeneration [i.e., has received baptism] and is thereby living as Christ enjoined. For not as common Bread nor common drink do we receive these; but since Jesus Christ our Saviour was made incarnate by the word of God and had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so too, as we have*

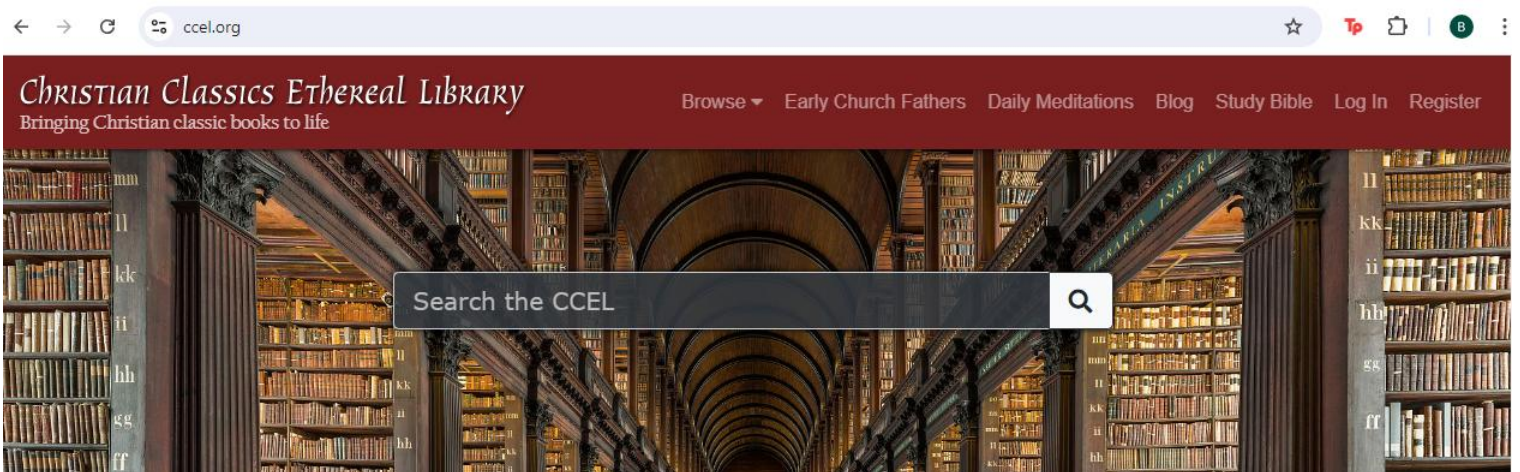
8-11-24 Pentecost Week 13, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr. B Page 25 of 43  
been taught, the Food which has been made into the Eucharist by the Eucharistic prayer set down by him, and by the change of which our blood and flesh is nurtured, is both the flesh and the blood of that incarnated Jesus" (*First Apology* 66).

*Irenaeus*, 189 AD, writes, "If the Lord were from other than the Father, how could he rightly take bread, which is of the same creation as our own, and confess it to be his body and affirm that the mixture in the cup is his blood?" (*Against Heresies* 4:33–32).

SOURCE: <https://catholica.com/objections-to-the-eucharist/>

Disclaimer: I, Brother Benedict, do not agree with many of the views expressed on this website; however, the ancient statements copied and pasted above are from this source, and it is only right that I have identified the source.

In my observation, during the first 1,000 years, the Church clearly and unanimously believed that Christ was literally present in the Eucharist; it is unquestionable. These were disciples of the Apostles, meaning the Apostles almost definitely taught the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. I observe the conflicts that later arise over this question about the Real Presence are concerning how this change takes place, a question no mortal can answer, not because it is idiotic or ridiculous, but only because it is an operation of the eternal Divine God, not our doing. (Br. Shawn Benedict. If someone else deserves credit for any of this statement, it is from information stored in my thoughts, not an intentional omission.)



<https://www.ccel.org/> Use this source to read more of the materials quoted above, Ignatius of Antioch, (*Letter to the Smyrnaeans* 6:2–7:1), etc. The picture is of the Library at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland ([see here](#))

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**Today's Gospel John 6:5-51**

35: will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty

37: anyone who comes to me I will never drive away,

38b, 39: the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on

the last day.

40: God's will that all who believe in Jesus will have eternal life and be raised on the last day.

41, 42: We know this guy. He is not from Heaven, we know his parents and where he grew up. <sup>41</sup> Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup> They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

47-50: It is God's will that you come now to Me (Jesus), and it is God's will that all who do come from the old to the new will have eternal life. <sup>47</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

51: Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, my flesh for the life of the world that I will give, as he had not given it yet. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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Guide for political actions allowed by churches and by pastors  
<https://www.adfchurchalliance.org/electionguide>  
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PROJECT 2025 "Page one."

"Today, America and the conservative movement are enduring an era of division and danger akin to the late 1970s. Now, as then, our political class has been discredited by wholesale dishonesty and corruption. Look at America under the ruling and cultural elite today: Inflation is ravaging family budgets, drug overdose deaths continue to escalate, and children suffer the toxic normalization of transgenderism with drag queens and pornography invading their school libraries. Overseas, a totalitarian Communist dictatorship in Beijing is engaged in a strategic, cultural, and economic Cold War against America's interests, values, and people—all while globalist elites in Washington awaken only slowly to that growing threat. Moreover, low-income communities are drowning in addiction and government dependence. Contemporary elites have even repurposed the worst ingredients of 1970s "radical chic" to build the

totalitarian cult known today as "The Great Awakening." And now, as then, the Republican Party seems to have little understanding about what to do. Most alarming of all, the very moral foundations of our society are in peril. Yet students of history will note that, notwithstanding all those challenges, the late 1970s proved to be the moment when the political Right unified..." (Source: page 1 Mandate For Leadership, Project 2025)

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"A combination of elected and unelected bureaucrats at the Environmental Protection Agency quietly strangles domestic energy production through difficult-to-understand rulemaking processes;

— 8 —

I Bureaucrats at the Department of Homeland Security, following the lead of a feckless Administration, order border and immigration enforcement agencies to help migrants criminally enter our country with impunity;

I Bureaucrats at the Department of Education inject racist, anti-American, ahistorical propaganda into America's classrooms;

I Bureaucrats at the Department of Justice force school districts to undermine girls' sports and parents' rights to satisfy transgender extremists;

I Woke bureaucrats at the Pentagon force troops to attend "training" seminars about "white privilege"; and

I Bureaucrats at the State Department infuse U.S. foreign aid programs with woke extremism about "intersectionality" and abortion.<sup>3</sup>

Unaccountable federal spending is the secret lifeblood of the **Great Awakening**." (Source: pages 7 and 8 Mandate For Leadership, Project 2025)

Read the 2024 Republican Party Platform Here

(<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/2024-republican-party-platform> )

Read the supporting documents and ideas known as Project 2025 here: <https://www.project2025.org/>

See a video summary of the highlights of Project 2025 by the Wall Street Journal here:

**[\(Project 2025: The Radical Conservative Plan to Reshape America Under Trump | WSJ\)](#)**

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

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**+ (optional) Profession Of Faith**

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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)



## + The Prayers of the People - Pastor

**Leader - 3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry.




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

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.

Also, at this time, we will set our altars and communion tables at home and in the Chapel. Those viewing at home, please turn to the highlighted text on page three of this bulletin to review the instructions for items needed for Holy Communion. In the Chapel here, everyone may assist in setting the Table of the Lord together. We begin now.

### **Offertory Song: He's Worthy (Reprise).**

**Leader - 3:** A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(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**

**Kaiden:** Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. For those at home with bread, please lift it now.

**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.**

**Kaiden:** Please set down your Bread. In the Chapel, please continue to hold your communion kit. 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.**

**Kaiden:** Please set down your cup.

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**+ The Lord's Prayer**

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

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

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

## + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Please lift the Holy Communion Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation.  
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

**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.

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

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

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.



## + 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: "Holy Ground" words and music by Geron**

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

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**New Revised Standard Version – 1989**

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**General Offering** for the week of July 21 \$1,240.00 \*\*Includes two gifts that count for both July and August. Attendance 10 on Sunday; Wednesday, July 24, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of July 28 \$350.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday; Wednesday, July 31, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of August 4 \$885.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday; Wednesday, August 7, Attendance 8  
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

**\*\*In Addition to the General Offering, we received the following Special Gifts.\*\***

**\*\*Recent Special Gifts\*\***

Kaiden Benedict donated \$400.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you, Kaiden  
Brother donated \$640.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you, Brother  
Ian and Christina donated \$436.50 to the Building Improvement Fund. Thank you  
both.

There is a new air conditioner and dehumidifier in the Frasier Room that was purchased with monies donated by Gary and Annie and the William and Jean Houser Trust. We are very grateful, thank you.

On Wednesday, July 3, Cam, Gary, and Annie came up from Millerton and worked from 2:00 - 7:30 PM with Brother to reduce shrubs, trees, and brush from the side yard

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

### **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

\*\* See the Q.R. Code on the last page.\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/> Christians  
Against Christian Nationalism

August 11, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.  
August 13, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.  
August 14, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

August 18, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.  
August 19, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee.  
August 20, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.  
August 21, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

August 25, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.  
August 26, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee.  
August 27, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.  
August 28, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

### **Nominations to the Council close - August 29**

August 30, Friday, 2:00 PM The August Council Meeting: open to in-person and online attendance.

The September Council meeting is on 9-20-24 at 2:00 PM.

### **The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting is September 29, 2024**

October 13, Sunday at 2:30 PM? **The Abrahamic Walk** presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition



## We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Leader - 2:** We bless you 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.**

**LAST SONG: Let The Church Say Amen.** Words and Music by Andréa Crouch (shortened version for responses)

### **Chorus 1**

Let the church say Amen  
Let the church say Amen  
God has spoken  
Let the church say Amen

### **Chorus 2**

He can change it (your heart oh)

Rearrange it (your heart oh)  
God said it (God said it)  
Believe it (you gotta believe)  
(repeat x's)  
God has spoken  
Let the church say Amen  
(repeat to chorus 2? or 1?)

**Ending**

God has spoken  
Let the Church say Amen.

**Let The Church Say Amen.** Words and Andraé Crouch

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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 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 website;  
[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors\\_At\\_Events.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.





## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

