



## 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.  
In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:

**"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God"** (NABRE – 2011)

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

Today is 8-18-24 Pentecost Week 14,  
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
The Bread of Life, Week four of five.

Special: Two Martyrs St. Jonathan Myrick Daniels and St. Fr. Maximilian Kolbe  
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:** Proverbs 9:1-6 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 591 "...Come, eat my bread and  
drink my wine..."

**Psalm:** Canticle of Mary: Luke 1:46-55

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 5:15-20 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 194

**Third Reading: Gospel:** John 6:51-59 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 98 **BREAD OF LIFE WEEK  
4 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.**



## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

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

Our St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, is a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, given in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured, 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 LGBTQIA2ss+ 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 18, 2024, Pentecost Week 14, the twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, in the cycle of Scripture readings known as the Lectionary. Today, I decided to repeat the memorial feast day celebrations of this last Wednesday, August 14, for two Christian Martyrs, Seminarian Jonathan Myrick Daniels, who died in Alabama while participating in Civil Rights nonviolent protests in 1965, and Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, who died in Auschwitz in 1941. Today is also week four in the five-week study of John Chapter 6, the Bread of Life, in the Lectionary. 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: All Are Welcome.** Words and Music by Marty Haugen  
Tune: © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Onelicense Song #00004 GIA Edition 4166. 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 # 126.



## Names on Block #126

- ☐ Ilja Glusgal (1)
- ☐ Peter Logan (2)

- ☐ Ken Cameron (3)
- ☐ Bernard Roth (4)
- ☐ Larry Daniel (5)
- ☐ David Burgess (6)
- ☐ John Peterman (7)
- ☐ David Walters (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: Seek The Lord.** Words and Music by Robert F. O'Connor, Jr., SJ, \*Composer's revised text Text based on Isaiah 55:6–9. © 1975, 1996, Robert F. O'Connor, Jr., SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song #81340 Glory and Praise Second Edition # 351. OCP Octavo/Bonus Music. Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.



**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 in 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.

**Verse 1**

12 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!

**Refrain**

21 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





85

Verse 4: Amen

A\_\_\_\_\_ men;- We

We give You thanks and praise!

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

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

89

A men

A men. Al - le - lu - ia.

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



## + 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, refresh us with the renewing of our minds by hearing these Holy Scriptures. 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 Proverbs, chapter 9, verses 1-6 on page 591 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 is in the feminine as Divine Wisdom; she sets her table and invites us to "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed." As you hear this reading, remember that this is in every Bible and is being read worldwide today. We may wonder how many churches will admit to God being in the feminine person when they present this reading. Here begins the reading:

### **Wisdom's Feast**

- 9 Wisdom has built her house;  
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- <sup>2</sup> She has slaughtered her animals; she has mixed her wine;  
she has also set her table.
- <sup>3</sup> She has sent out her female servants; she calls  
from the highest places in the town,

<sup>4</sup> "You who are simple, turn in here!"

To those without sense she says,

<sup>5</sup> "Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.

<sup>6</sup> Lay aside immaturity and live,  
and walk in the way of insight."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Kings+19%3A4-8&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.)

**+ 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 **Canticle of Mary:** Luke 1:46-55. We will recite it together.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour  
for God has looked with favor on this lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and Holy is God's Name.  
God has mercy on those who respect and love God  
in every generation.  
God's arm has shown the strength,  
and scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
God has filled the hungry with good things,  
the rich have been sent away empty.  
God has come to the help of Israel, God's servant,  
and has remembered the promise of mercy

8-18-24 corrected Pentecost Week 14, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr. B Page 16 of 43  
made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his descendants forever.

Glory to God, The Christ, and The Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.

\*Inclusive language provided by Br. Benedict, I take sole responsibility for any errors.

## + 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 5, verse 15 through 20. The 1989 NRSV Bible has this reading on page 194 in the second testament. I will be reading from the New King James Version of 1982. Here begins the reading:

### Walk in Wisdom

<sup>15</sup> See then that you walk <sup>[a]</sup>circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

### Footnotes

a. [Ephesians 5:15](#) carefully

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%205%3A15-20&version=NKJV>) Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Churches may use stand-alone

## + 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 6:51-59 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>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."

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, <sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in a synagogue at Capernaum.

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%206%3A51-59&version=NRSVUE>.)

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## Gospel Acclamation



## Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus 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)

**Today is week four 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.

Last week, we had 1 Kings 19:4-8; Elijah is touched twice by The Angel of The Lord, who **provides warm bread** on hot stones and water for Elijah for **both his spiritual and physical well-being**.

Two weeks ago, we read 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."

Three 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 a gift from God, known here in the feminine as Wisdom. The reading is in the **Book of Proverbs**, but to some, it may sound like the Book of Wisdom in the Apocrypha. The two books confirm the other. Do notice the pronouns she and her. Here, She invites us to Her Table to receive Her Bread and Her Wine. Notice the connection to the second reading in Ephesians, where we are exhorted to **walk circumspectly**, to **walk carefully**, to **be wise** and not foolish. The **wisdom** we seek is to **know God's will** and follow that. We are exhorted not to be drunk with the wine of this world. Yes, it does mean being inebriated literally (not a church rule for restriction on drinking or being high as you may responsibly choose to be; this is about irresponsibly being high or drunk as one's answer to looking for life's wisdom) but it also a metaphor meaning seduction (drunk) into the false wisdom based only upon human knowledge, discovery, and theory. When we set the parameters of what

we declare to be truth on what is humanly discovered, we are very limited in our knowledge base.

God in Christ and through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit opens to us "the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:6- 16).

Where can we be fed this spiritual Wisdom? We are invited to her table to eat in today's first reading. In the second reading, we are urged to live by God's wisdom, or Wisdom, made known to us in Christ.

In the Gospel, John Chapter 6, Jesus teaches a new Wisdom to the Human Race. Jesus is explaining a new dispensation was about to begin. What was previously done under the Law of Moses, under the Family of Abraham, and taught by the Prophets, would soon be in His Name with the authority of His commandments. Jesus would build His Church with His commandments and with His own sacred food of His flesh and blood (something radically new to the People) that would continue to taste, smell, and feel familiar as the bread of Moses and the cup of Elijah. The Law and its Passover Bread, along with the Prophets and the Cup of Elijah, would continue. It will still taste like bread and wine, but now you will have new Wisdom to understand this is no longer just bread for the journey as it was in the desert and for Elijah fleeing Jezebel, but it would also be for your spiritual selves as it would give Eternal Life. 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).

Jesus taught these truths when He said: " <sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, <sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in a synagogue at Capernaum. (John 6: 54-59)

On Wednesday, we celebrated the lives of two men who gave their lives doing the will of Christ, putting the social ministry of applied Christianity into action.



(source: 1936 (info: <http://www.preguntasantoral.es/2013/08/san-maximiliano-kolbe/>

<http://santuarioeucaristico.blogspot.hu/2010/08/sao-maximiliano-kolbe-14-de-agosto.html>

This image (or other media file) is in the [public](#)

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St. Maximilian Kolbe, 1936.

He was born Raymund Kolbe on the 8th of January in 1894 in Poland. He was ordained in 1918. Fr. Kolbe used publishing extensively and even founded new monasteries where publishing was a significant outreach ministry. Fr. Kolbe founded monasteries in Niepokalanow, Poland, India, and Japan. Poor health caused him to return to his home monastery in 1936. When the Germans invaded Poland in the Fall of 1939, he and a very few other Brothers remained in the monastery. They opened a temporary hospital, and they also sheltered and hid as many as 2,000 Jews and other refugees. The social conditions required him to take a stance against the Nazi and German leaders and politicians.

Ultimately the Nazis shut down the monastery on February 17, 1941. Fr. Kolbe was taken to the Pawiak prison by the German Gestapo. Then, after three months, he was transferred to Auschwitz. There is a very detailed first-hand account of how Fr. Kolbe was treated at Auschwitz by an eyewitness, Mr. Francis Gajowniczek on this website:

<https://newsletter.companionsofstanthony.org/newsletters/2018-fall/st-maximilian-kolbe-a-reflection/>.

Around 1983, American Franciscan Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv. picked up Mr. Francis Gajowniczek, who traveled to Ellicott City, Maryland, to share his story of how Fr. Kolbe stepped forward and said, "I'd like to take that man's place" and saved him from execution by the Nazis. It was a ruthless punishment in what was known as the "Block of Death," an underground bunker where prisoners were starved to death with windows at ground level so others could hear their cries of agony. Fr. Kolbe turned the Block of Death into a sanctuary, leading the men in songs and prayers, according to many eyewitnesses who have offered interviews. Ultimately, after two weeks of starvation, death was hastened by an injection of carbolic acid. (source: <https://newsletter.companionsofstanthony.org/newsletters/2018-fall/st-maximilian-kolbe-a-reflection/>.)

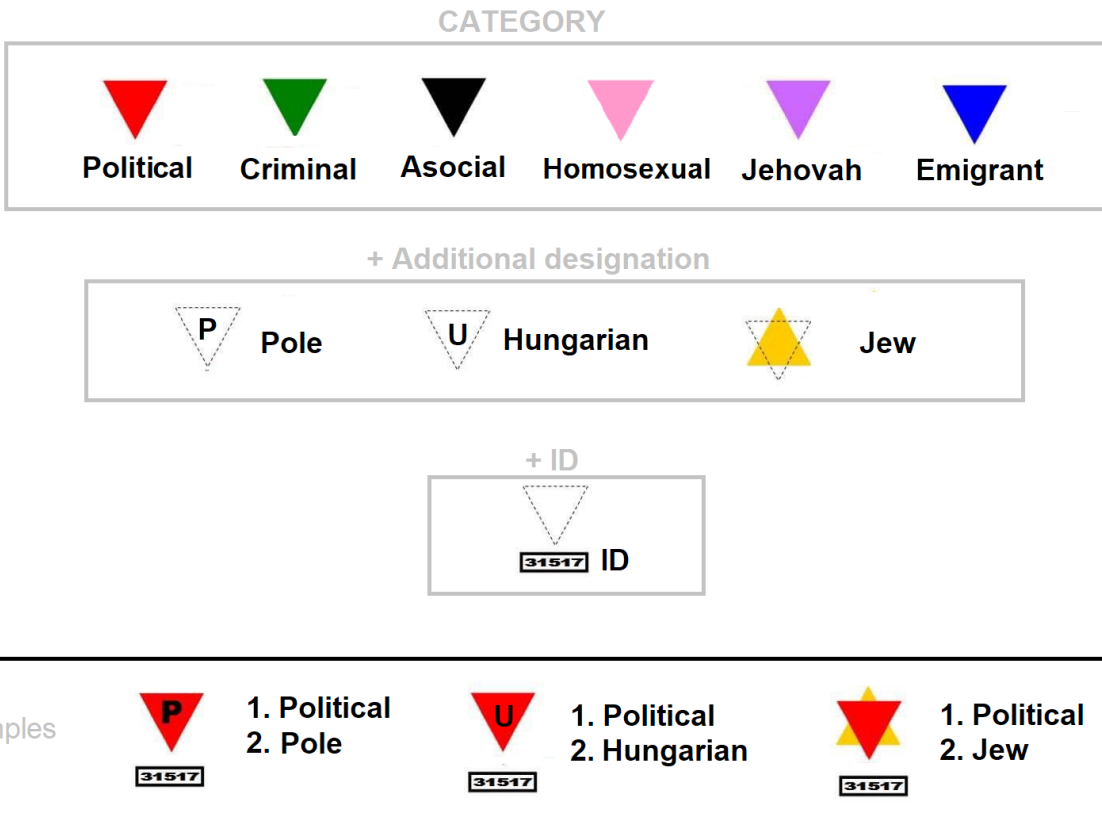



(Painting Source: <https://newsletter.companionsofstanthony.org/newsletters/2018-fall/st-maximilian-kolbe-a-reflection/> )

Mr. Gajowniczek died on March 13, 1995, at 94 years old, 53 years after Fr. Kolbe saved his life. (<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1995-03-18-mn-44060-story.html>)



## System of identification in German camps



By GermanCamps - Own work,  [CC BY 4.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=88851569),  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=88851569>  
 ([https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi\\_concentration\\_camp\\_badge#/media/File:Wikipedia\\_system\\_of\\_identification\\_German\\_camps.png](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_concentration_camp_badge#/media/File:Wikipedia_system_of_identification_German_camps.png))

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**Jonathan Myrick Daniels.** In March 1965, a 26-year-old seminarian at the Episcopal Seminary in Boston and several classmates and friends answered Dr. Martin Luther King's call to come to Selma, Alabama, and participate in the 55-mile march for voting rights from Selma to the state capital, Montgomery. Having missed their bus back home, Jonathan and a friend, Judith Upham, received permission to stay in Alabama for the rest of the summer and return to take the semester exams. Jonathan stayed with a local African-American family, the Wests. He participated in many Episcopal church outreach and education programs and demonstrations that summer.

Indeed, that summer, on August 2, 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, providing federal oversight and enforcement of the right to vote.

Twelve days later, on August 14, he was one of 29 protesters, including members of SNCC, to be arrested for picketing a whites-only store. They were transported to jail in a garbage truck to another town. Bail was not offered for their release. On August 20, they were suddenly released with no transportation plans.

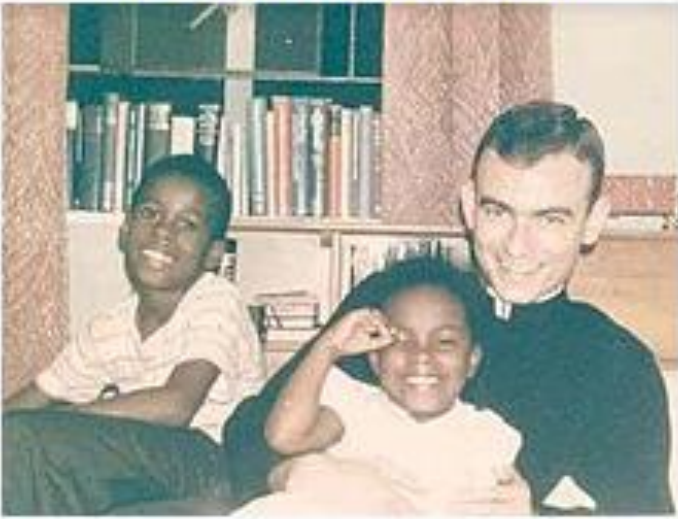
Jonathan, a white Catholic priest, and two African-American female activists walked to the Varner's Cash Store for a cold soft drink. At the door, they were met by Tom L. Coleman, who pointed a shotgun at Ruby Sales, one of the women with them. Jonathan Daniels pushed her aside, took the full shotgun blast, and was killed instantly. When Dr. King heard this, he said, "One of the most heroic Christian deeds of which I have heard in my entire ministry was performed by Jonathan Daniels."

The Episcopal Church designated Jonathan Myrick Daniels a Martyr in 1991 and made his Feast Day August 14, the same day as Fr. Kolbe.

(sources for Jonathan Daniels included:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan\\_Daniels#:~:text=Commemorations,-A%20sculpture%20group&text=In%201991%2C%20the%20Episcopal%20Church,recognizes%20Martin%20Luther%20King%20Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Daniels#:~:text=Commemorations,-A%20sculpture%20group&text=In%201991%2C%20the%20Episcopal%20Church,recognizes%20Martin%20Luther%20King%20Jr.) and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan\\_Daniels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Daniels)

## Jonathan Daniels



Daniels (far right), c. 1960s

3/20/1939 to 8/20/1965 (picture source:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/8/83/Jonathan\\_Daniels.jpg/220px-Jonathan\\_Daniels.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/8/83/Jonathan_Daniels.jpg/220px-Jonathan_Daniels.jpg))

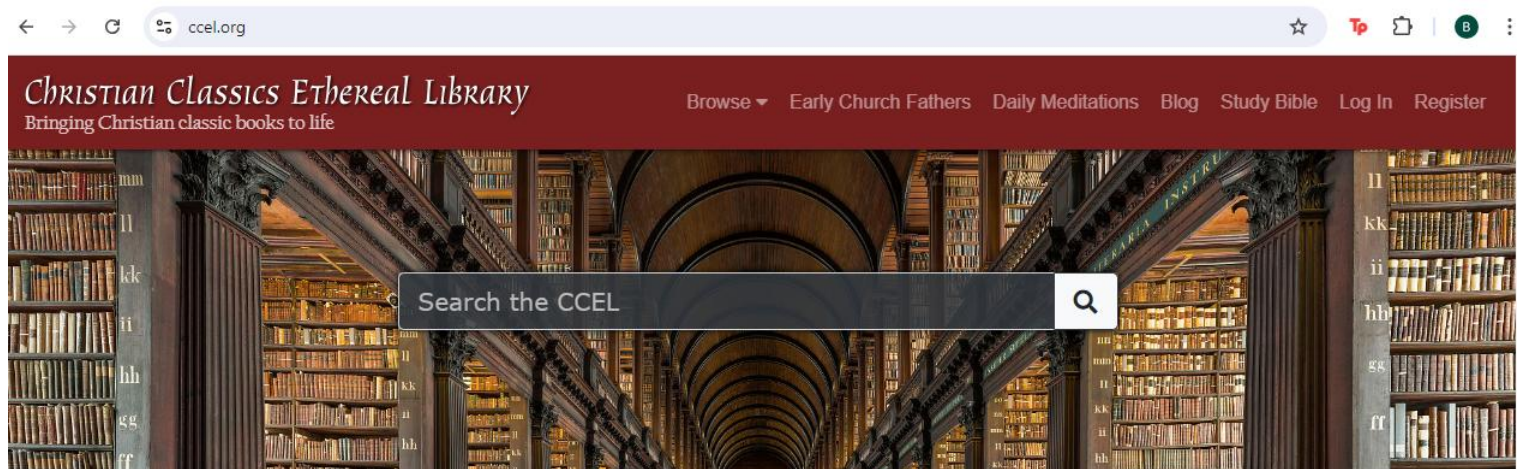
Before leaving the remarks about these two witnesses for Christ, Fr. Kolbe and Seminarian Daniels, I want to connect them to Mary's Canticle we recited today. I looked up the special readings the Episcopal Church, USA schedules for Jonathan Daniels, and the Canticle of Mary is the Gospel for the day. Fr. Kolbe had a very public devotion to Mary as "Our Blessed Mother" and the Immaculate one, naming his published paper "The Immaculata." When we look at the Canticle of Mary line-by-line, the Holy Spirit has supplied the Christian Martyr with all the Spiritual and physical Wisdom they will need in the moment or the hours or the weeks of their persecution as they give their life for Christ. Remember, Jesus said, "No greater love does anyone have than to lay down their life for their friend." (John 15:13) Both men, Saint Jonathan Daniels and Saint Kolbe did give their lives so others might live. According to worldly wisdom, they both could have been criticized for doing things that ended in their deaths (hiding 2000 + Jews and Refugees) (leaving the safety of the college campus and voluntarily entering racial conflicts in the center of protests in 1965). However, according to God's Wisdom, both men lived on the Bread Of Life and the Cup of Salvation, and both men were baptized into His death and will indeed participate in His Resurrection. They lived the Gospel to their final heartbeat.

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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)

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*

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Guide for political actions allowed by churches and by pastors  
<https://www.adfchurchalliance.org/electionguide>

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Read the 2024 Republican Part 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. Words and Music by Sandra Crouch © 1985**

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**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

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.

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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: I Am The Bread Of Life.** Words and Music by Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b.1927 Contributors: Suzanne Toolan

Tune: © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Based on John 6 and 11; © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Onelicense Song # 00044 Lead Me, Guide Me 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 755 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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

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**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

**General Offering** for the week of August 11 \$110.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday; Wednesday, August 14, Attendance 7

(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

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

Cam was here to help with trimming and weeding on Tuesday, August 12. Thank you, Cam.

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

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.

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

The Innocence Project <https://innocenceproject.org/>  
Announcing Baptism Preparation Instruction. Membership is based the [Statement Of Purpose](#). The Sacrament of Baptism is based upon the [Statement of Faith](#) and is the public affirmation that one desires to be "baptized into Christ Jesus," (see Galatians 3:27-28) and forever remain one with Christ and His Body, the Church. Ray Of Hope Church By-Laws [8.02 Baptism](#).

Baptism in/with water as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life in Christ Jesus and God's service and shall be witnessed by Christ's Church.

August 19, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee.

August 20, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment. The Angel Of The Lord

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 **Baptism Instruction**

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.

**SEPTEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24 – Tuesdays - Baptism Instruction**

**6:30 – 8:00**

Sunday, September 15, Worship at 10:30 a.m. Celebrating the 28th Anniversary of the Southern Tier Extension of Ray Of Hope Church and the Feast of the Triumph Of The Cross.

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

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

Worship at 10:30 AM with the Sacrament of Baptism. Shared dinner after

worship, and the

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 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 Andr  a 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)

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Scripture verses to share with others:\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

