



# 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 8-25-24 Pentecost Week 15,  
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
The Bread of Life, Week five of five.  
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: Jos. 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b NRSV 1st Test. pg. 215 "...decide today whom you will serve..."**

**Psalm: The responsorial psalm is inside the bulletin**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 5:1,2, 21-32 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 194 Text from The Inclusive Bible provided.**

**Third Reading: Gospel: John 6:60-69 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 99 BREAD OF LIFE WEEK 5 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 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 25, 2024, Pentecost Week 15, the twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, in the cycle of Scripture readings known as the Lectionary. Today is also week five 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

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## + 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) \_\_\_\_\_,



## Names on Block #127

- Grover P. Hardin (1)
  - J. A. W. (2)
- Jon W. Martin (3)
- Bob Wunderlich (4)
  - "Parkay" (5)
- Anthony Ferraro (6)
  - Phil Gregory (7)
  - Gary (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: Look Beyond.** Words and Music by Darryl Ducote  
Words and Music: by Darryl Ducote © 1969, 1979, Damean Music. Distributed by GIA Publications, Inc. Gather Comprehensive 843. Onelicense Song #00754. 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, when we fail to dedicate our lives to your will, we pray, 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 promote understanding, acceptance, and celebrating people's talents and abilities; 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, open our minds and refresh us as we listen to 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 Joshua, chapter 24, verses 1-2a, and verses 15-18 on page 215 in the first testament of the 1989 pew edition of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading the 2021 updated version. In this reading the theme is introduced, choose who you will serve today and forever. Here begins the reading:

24 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup> And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

<sup>15</sup> Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, <sup>17</sup> for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, <sup>18</sup> and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read the full Chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2024%3A1-18&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 number 34, verses two through nine, with a responsorial verse: "Glorify the Lord with me; we give God thanks and praise."

**ALL: Glorify the Lord with me; we give God thanks and praise.**

<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.

**ALL: Glorify the Lord with me; we give God thanks and praise.**

<sup>16</sup> The eyes of the LORD are toward the just and his ears toward their appeal.

<sup>17</sup> the face of the LORD rebuffs the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

**ALL: Glorify the Lord with me; we give God thanks and praise.**

<sup>18</sup> They call and the LORD hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed God will save.

**ALL: Glorify the Lord with me; we give God thanks and praise.**

<sup>20</sup> Many are the trials of the upright  
but the LORD will come to rescue them,

<sup>21</sup> keeping guard over all their bones,  
not one of their bones shall be broken.

**ALL: Glorify the Lord with me; we give God thanks and praise.**

**Give praise to the Living God.**

**To God's Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.**

**To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.**

**Both now, and forever. A-men.**

Text of Psalm 34 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #05159. 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 5, verses 1,2, and 21-32. The 1989 NRSV Bible has this reading on page 194 in the second testament. I will be reading the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and walk in love, as Christ loved us<sup>[a]</sup> and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



<sup>32b</sup> **I am speaking about Christ and the church.**

<sup>21</sup> being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

## The Christian Household

<sup>22</sup> Wives, be subject<sup>[e]</sup> to your husbands as to the Lord, <sup>23</sup> for the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

**ALL:** <sup>32b</sup> **I am speaking about Christ and the church.**

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind, so that she may be holy and without blemish.

**ALL:** <sup>32b</sup> **I am speaking about Christ and the church.**

<sup>28</sup> In the same way, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hates his own flesh, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body.<sup>[f]</sup>

**ALL:** <sup>32b</sup> **I am speaking about Christ and the church.**

<sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but **I am speaking about Christ and the church.** <sup>33</sup> Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect<sup>[g]</sup> her husband.

**ALL:** <sup>32b</sup> **I am speaking about Christ and the church.**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read the full Chapter](#)

### Footnotes

- a. [5.2](#) Other ancient authorities read *you*
- b. [5.6](#) Gk *sons of disobedience*
- c. [5.9](#) Other ancient authorities read *of the Spirit*
- d. [5.15](#) Gk *walk*

- e. [5.22](#) Gk lacks *be subject*
- f. [5.30](#) Other ancient authorities add *of his flesh and of his bones*
- g. [5.33](#) Or *fear*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%205&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.)

## + 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 6:60-69 on page 99 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.**

## **The Words of Eternal Life**

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?" <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." [a]

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

## **Footnotes**

a. 6.69 Other ancient authorities read *the Christ, the Son of the living God*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A60-69&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 - 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 five 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, in the Book of Proverbs, we learned that Wisdom has set her table for us and invites us to come to Her Table and eat Her bread and drink Her wine. In the second reading from Ephesians, we learned we could accept and grow in the Wisdom of God, and in the Gospel, Jesus introduced the New Bread and the New Cup, the Eucharist, where He would remain with us to the end of the Church Age. The Eucharist continues to provide new Wisdom every time we celebrate at the Table of Christ, the Living Bread.

Two weeks ago, 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**.

Three 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."

Four 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, we have the fifth of five Sundays reviewing the Doctrine of the Bread Of Life. Last Sunday, we ended by thinking about the Wisdom of God expressed as the Church, building "her house" and inviting all to "come in" and sit at her table to eat bread and drink her wine (Proverbs 9:5). There is something else I

want to say about that reading. According to most ancient authorities, I could have pointed out that the church has seven sacraments. Perhaps this could be the seven pillars her house is built upon (Proverbs 9:1), but it might also be the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit known as the seven spirits of God in Revelation 1:4 or even other meanings. In all this, we see Jesus, the Head of the Church, His Body in the world. (Colossians 1:18) We see the precious bread and wine inside the house as The Blessed Sacrament. This is all God's wisdom. We also see that the church is the Bride of Christ, and He is her husband.

Romans 7:4 <sup>4</sup> Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you **may be married to another—to Him** who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

(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 quotations/scriptures in sermons, bulletins, newsletters, or projected in a worship setting without asking written permission provided the translation is correctly cited. This permission is contingent upon an appropriate copyright acknowledgment.)

Human knowledge will never be able to scientifically analyze and explain **how** Jesus is fully present with us in His resurrected self through the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 41:10; Matt 28:20) No scientific study we currently have can study and **explain this phenomenon**. Also, no scientific method can explain **how** simple bread and simple fruit of the vine become the real flesh and real blood of Jesus as He promised it would. (John 6:55) Further, no scientific method will ever be able to explain **how** all the powers of eternal life are brought forth through the transformation of earthly food and drink into spiritual food and drink that gives the power of eternal life. Verse 51: Jesus said to them, <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Today, we have John Chapter 6, verse 66. **666** represents the number of man at our worst spiritual selves, the number of anti-Christ. What is happening at this moment in the Bread Of Life Gospel? Many of His disciples refused to follow Him from that day forward. Why? Because they found the Doctrine of the Real Presence too difficult to rationalize and, therefore, impossible to believe. This reason for not accepting the Real Presence continues to be the case today. Millions of Christians do not believe in the Real Presence, and worse, they teach others to deny it, too. Still, others have taken the Doctrine of the Real Presence and made it out to be for "re"-presenting a perpetual

sacrifice of Christ to God on an altar of sacrifice at the hands of a sacrificial priest for the forgiveness of the sins of the people they make the sacrifice for. In my opinion, both extremes are wrong as I see them.

John 6:67—69 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?"  
<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Joshua 24:15: As for my house and me, we will serve the Lord.

Ephesians 5:21 states that Christ is inseparable from the body – the church – and is also its Savior.

Ephesians 5:30b—32 Christ cares for the church – for we are members of Christ's body. 31) "This is why one person leaves home and clings to another, and the two become one flesh."

32) This is a great foreshadowing: it refers to Christ and the church.

Holy Communion At Ray Of Hope.

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

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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).

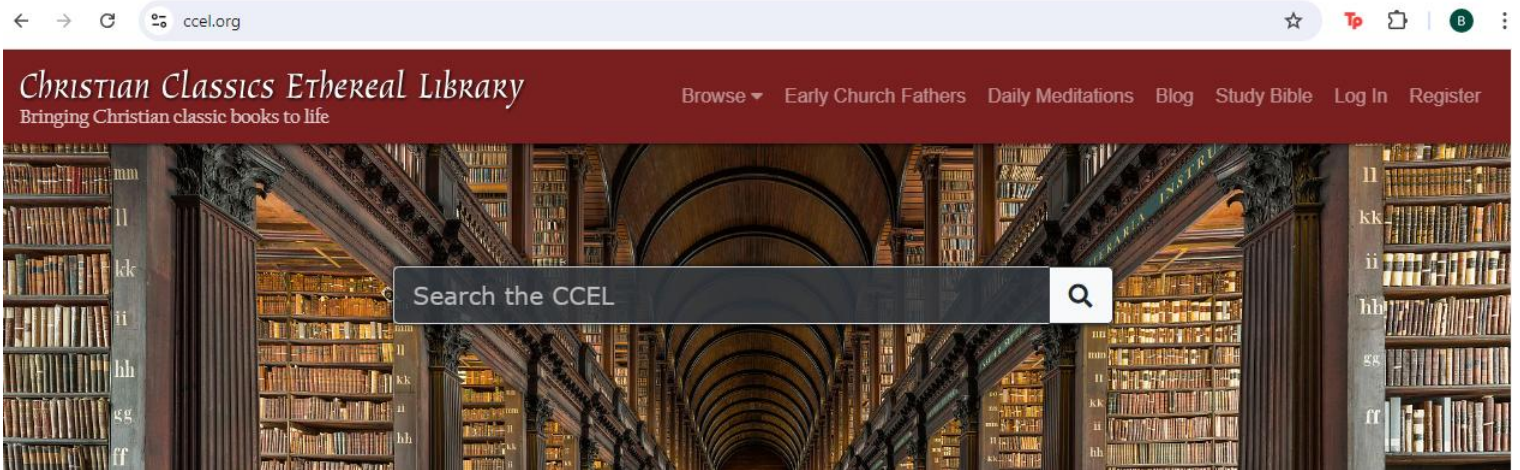
The Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13),

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 above materials, 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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Guide for political actions allowed by churches and by pastors

<https://www.adfchurchalliance.org/electionguide>

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Read the 2024 Democratic Party Platform Here: <https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/FINAL-MASTER-PLATFORM.pdf>

See pages 56 & 57.

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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](#)

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



**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: 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.

**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:

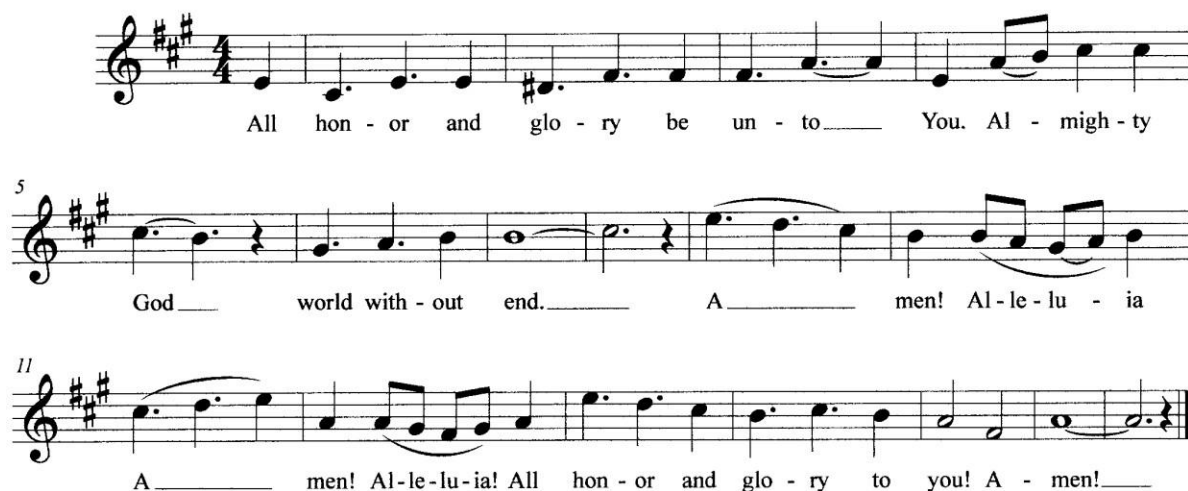
**ALL:** It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,  
forever and ever.

### 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:** **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 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

**General Offering** for the week of August 18 \$310.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, August 21, Attendance 4  
(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 UPDATED 8-28-24**

\*\* See the Q.R. Code on the last page.\*\* Two resources to take note of:

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

\*\*\*\*The Innocence Project <https://innocenceproject.org/>

Announcing Baptism Preparation Instruction. Membership is based on 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.

**SEPTEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24 – Tuesdays - Baptism Instruction  
6:30 – 8:00 online only until further notice.**

Happy 61st Birthday to Kaiden, yesterday, Saturday, August 24.

August 27, Tuesday, **The Council closed the chapel through at least September 2nd. All activities will be online only until the Council decides to reopen our facility to the public. For more information [RIGHT CLICK HERE](#).**

**August 29, Thursday - Nominations to the Council close**

August 30, Friday, 2:00 PM The August Council Meeting: online attendance only.

September 1, Sunday 10:30 AM Worship Online only.

September 2, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

September 3, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM **Baptism Instruction**

September 4, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

September 8, Sunday 10:30 AM Worship In-Person and Online

September 9, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

September 10, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM **Baptism Instruction**

September 11, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

**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.**

September 16, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

September 17, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM **Baptism Instruction**

September 18, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

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

Current Political Resources



Our statement on the RNC's approval of the historic 2024 platform:

"Log Cabin Republicans have been working for decades to help build a more inclusive GOP and update the platform's outdated and out-of-step language... Today, that hard work has finally come to fruition."



"The approval today of the 2024 Republican Party platform at the Republican National Convention is a historic moment both for the GOP and for our country. Log Cabin Republicans have been working for decades to help build a more inclusive GOP and update the platform's outdated and out-of-step language opposing marriage equality, an issue that the vast majority of the country and a majority of Republican voters support. Today, that hard work has finally come to fruition. This platform sends a powerful message to LGBT conservatives across the country that we are not only welcome in the Republican Party, but a part of the movement to Make America Great Again. It also makes clear to voters that the Republican Party welcomes all, and is looking optimistically to the future instead of cynically rehashing old debates of the past. This is a platform of unity. We applaud President Trump for his visionary, inclusive, and consistent leadership, without which this moment wouldn't be possible. LGBT conservatives are more determined than ever before to help the GOP fight the radical gender ideology of the Democrat Party and more enthused than ever to nominate President Trump as our standard-bearer and Make America Great Again."

*- Log Cabin Republicans President Charles Moran*



## 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 ...

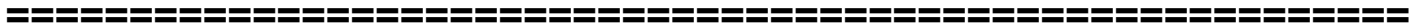
**ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.**

**LAST SONG:** **He's Worthy. Words and Music by Sandra Crouch** © 1985

Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Sanabella Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). All rights reserved. CCLI Song#11191 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

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)

