



# Ray Of Hope

*Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."**

(Isaiah 56:7)

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-first year of Ministry.**

**MISSION:** Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples of every person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

Today is 8-4-24 Pentecost Week 12,  
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
The Bread of Life, Week two of five.

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:** Ex. 16:1-4, 11-15 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 62 "I am going to rain down bread from heaven"

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

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 193

**Third Reading: Gospel:** John 6:24-35 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 98 **BREAD OF LIFE WEEK 2 of 5**

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

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005u. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured, and we now celebrate in Victory and gratitude for our Salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



## WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

### + Pastoral Welcome

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people, and smile.\*\*\*) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the

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

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

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



(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 July 28, 2024, Pentecost Week 12, the eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, in the cycle of Scripture readings known as the Lectionary, week two in the five-week study of John Chapter 6, the Bread of Life, in the Lectionary. Theologians of every major denomination worked together to organize this schedule of readings as far back as the late 1960s. There must have been consensus, which must continue to this day, that John Chapter 6 is essential to understanding ourselves as Christians. We shall see if you agree that John Chapter 6 is vital in 2024 as we study it together in these next five weeks. 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: He's Worthy. Words and Music by Sandra Crouch © 1985**

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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.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 124.



Names on Block #124

- Chuck Lynch (1)
- Brad Bevis (2)
- Hank (3)
- Larry (3)
- John (4)
- Jerry Tubbs (5)
- Mario Marozi Sebastian (6)
- Terry Baker (7)
- Phil Osborne (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: WAY MAKER Words and Music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu** © 2016 Integrity Music. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI Song #7115744. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



## 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 taken 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 announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

At this time, in silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, 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 know you hold out to us the gifts of eternal life, inner joy and peace. Sometimes we focus on the troubles of the world and forget you are with us. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -1:** Many political and social movements today misuse the institutional church and the Bible to promote division and distrust: Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -1:** The Institutional Church, has been misused to support systems of racism, homophobia, exclusion, sexism and other divisive ideologies. As Members of the Body of Christ we must present the counter-messaging; 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.**

**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: Amen.**

**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). 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

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, and open our minds to understand and apply your Word in our lives. We ask this in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: AMEN.**

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

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



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

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

The first reading is in the Book of Exodus, chapter 16, verses 1-4, 11-15 on page 62 in the first testament of the 1989 pew edition of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading the 2021 updated version. In this reading, God feeds the people miraculously promising; "I am going to rain bread from heaven." Here begins the reading:

**16** The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<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. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, <sup>12</sup> "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

<sup>13</sup> In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" <sup>[a]</sup> For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the Bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full Chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

a. [16.15](#) Or "It is manna"

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+16&version=NRSVUE>) Scripture quotations are taken 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 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 78, with selected verses and a responsorial verse:  
"Lord, you gave them bread from heaven, alleluia."

**R: Lord, you gave them Bread from Heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>3</sup> The things we have heard and understood,  
the things our ancestors have told us,  
<sup>4</sup> these we will not hide from their children  
but will tell them to the next generation:

**R: Lord, you gave them Bread from Heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>23</sup> Yet God commanded the clouds above  
and opened the gates of Heaven;  
<sup>24</sup> rained down manna for their Food,

and gave them Bread from Heaven.

**R: Lord, you gave them Bread from Heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>25</sup>Mere mortals ate the Bread of angels.

The Lord sent them meat in abundance.

<sup>54</sup>So God brought them to that holy land,  
to the mountain that was won by his hand;

**R: Lord, you gave them Bread from Heaven, alleluia.**

**Give praise to the Living God.**

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

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

**Both now, and for ever. A-men.**

Text of Psalm 78 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #31098. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Response verse and Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

## + Second Reading

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

The second reading is in the Book of Ephesians, Chapter 4, verses 7-8, and 11-16. The 1989 NRSV Bible has this reading on page 193 in the second testament. I will be reading from the updated edition of 2021. Here begins the reading:

<sup>7</sup> But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive;<sup>[b]</sup>  
he gave gifts to his people." (psalm 68:16)

<sup>11</sup> He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,<sup>[e]</sup> to the measure of



the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup> We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full Chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

b. [4.8](#) Or he led captive a host of captives

e. [4.13](#) Gk to a mature man

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4&version=NRSVUE>)  
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## **+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**We Love Your Word!**

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

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

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is John, Chapter 6:24-35 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 Mark.

**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>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the Food that perishes but for the Food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, "What must we do to

perform the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the Bread from Heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true Bread from Heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the Bread of God is that which <sup>[a]</sup> comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> They said to him, "Sir, <sup>[b]</sup> give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the Bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!  
**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Read full Chapter**

**Footnotes**

- a. 6.33 Or *he who*
- b. 6.34 Or *Lord*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A24-35&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 - sts the  
 Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!  
 You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our  
 joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!  
 For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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**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

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)

## REFLECTIONS ON TODAY'S READINGS

**Sermon: Br. Shawn Benedict, Pastor.**

+ Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ is Christ-centered in all of its teachings, and therefore does not ascribe to the dogmas, teachings, or practices of any denomination, or para-church organization of the Christian Church. Rather, we maintain an autonomous freedom to draw from the two millennia of immense riches known in all denominations of Christianity. Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ is an "independent" local Church. This does not mean we stand alone, as though on pride or arrogance, rather we seek to share an interdependence with other assemblies and fellowships of believers who endeavor equally as hard as we do to ring the Gospel to all people. (Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Faith)

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**This is week two 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.

I invite us to consider again the doctrine that we have been called to be born at this time in God's plan, in this Dispensation, "before the foundation of the world." Ephesians 1:3 - 6

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> just as **he chose us in Christ**<sup>[a]</sup> before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us<sup>[a]</sup> for adoption as his children<sup>[a]</sup> through Jesus Christ, according to the **good pleasure of his will**, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. (NRSVUE)

1Peter 1:20

<sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was **revealed at the end of the ages for your sake**. (NRSVUE)

Consider that we have been born after the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus the Christ of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

The people of the first reading today, Exodus Chapter 16 and the people who wrote and prayed the Psalm 78 chosen for today, they were born in another Dispensation, another time, before the early life of Jesus. They looked to

miracle of being fed from Heaven while being led by Moses.

Exodus 16:3-4 . <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<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. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. (NRSVUE)

And from today's Psalm 78

**R: Lord, you gave them Bread from Heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>23</sup> Yet God commanded the clouds above  
and opened the gates of Heaven;

<sup>24</sup> rained down manna for their Food,  
and gave them Bread from Heaven.

**R: Lord, you gave them Bread from Heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>25</sup> Mere mortals ate the Bread of angels.  
The Lord sent them meat in abundance.

<sup>54</sup> So God brought them to that holy land,  
to the mountain that was won by his hand;

So when confronted with Jesus, who was not of the established religious orders, the believers had every right to ask Jesus, how does this compare to our father in faith, Moses? From today's Gospel, John 6:

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the Bread from Heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true Bread from Heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the Bread of God is that which <sup>[a]</sup> comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world." (NRSVUE)

We, who sit here today, have been born into the Dispensation of Jesus, into His Church, and Jesus feeds us in the church with the True Bread from Heaven. None of us chose which Dispensation we would be born in: The Dispensation of

Moses with the Law, or the Dispensation of Christ, the Church, with the Gospel of Grace. We didn't choose, but God chose us to be here in this time and this place. Being born into the Age of the Gospel with the ministry of the Holy Spirit is why the Eucharistic Prayers begin with "it is right to give God thanks and praise."

Now, consider that we have been given the Holy Spirit as the source of the power of all ministry carried out in the church.

One of the points of the second reading today, Ephesians 4, selected verses, is Christ has supplied the Church with servants who administer particular functions that keep the people organized, educated, and able to do the ministry. The book of Ephesians identifies the people who bring us these ministries as gifts to the church. The Scripture says when Jesus ascended to the right hand of God, Jesus gave some people to be gifts to the church;

he gave gifts to his people."

<sup>11</sup> He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (NRSVUE)

The ordained and appointed ministry is a vast topic and not one to be explained today. However, I do see a connection I want to bring out. Notice in Psalm 78, verses 3 and 4 that the believers proclaim that the Holy Things of God, the Sacred Stories, the Testimony of Miracles they understood happened to their people was so important to the new generations that they vowed to preserve the Story and to be sure to teach it to their children for ages to come.

**Psalm 78 R: Lord, you gave them Bread from Heaven, alleluia.**

<sup>3</sup> The things we have heard and understood,

the things our ancestors have told us,

<sup>4</sup> these we will not hide from their children

but will tell them to the next generation: (Text of Psalm 78 (inclusive language - 1993)

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I hear this as a clarion call today. To teach the miracles of God, the wonderful works and acts of God are why the Holy Spirit has been poured out into the

hearts of all of us, and those who are ministry gifts to the Church, we must "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up the body of Christ." In the Chapter that has this Gospel reading today, we are encouraged to work for Food that lasts forever (John 6:27). Notice Jesus says, "food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you..." (John 6:27) Some have tried to say that Jesus living on Earth is the extent of the Bread of Life that those who heard that message that day received all there was to be in this Bread Of Life. However, Jesus clearly says the Bread of Life has not yet been given. He would provide us with this new Bread that comes down from Heaven directly from God. (John 6:32). Last week, we read the miracle of the Bread in 2 Kings 4:42-44. Here, Elisha is faithful to God, believing God would take the people's gifts and show God's love by providing Bread from Heaven to feed all and have some left over. We remember the Bread and quail in the wilderness whereby God responded to the request of the people to feed and sustain them... We have the Gospel accounts of Jesus facilitating God feeding crowds of 4,000 in one place and 5,000 men and more when you count the women and the children. In all of these cases, God transcends the laws of nature. Every time we celebrate the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation that Jesus gave us and that He makes present every time we gather like this, the laws of nature are transcended afresh and anew.

God has clarified that Jesus is the Bread of Salvation and will supply our spiritual needs as we journey through the Dispensation – the church of Jesus, His church that would start as the believers converted, became seriously committed to Christ and gathered in His Name. He promised He would be present whenever people gathered in His name. In this Chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus also promises to supply the Eucharist on all the days of the Church until the Dispensation ends. The physical feeding miracles of both testaments are the prophetic confirmation that Jesus would soon give a bread and a cup that would feed all of humanity until the day He would return. "Take this all of you," along with go forth and immerse everyone, baptize everyone in the Name of God, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, is a command to teach



everyone about this Bread of Life, this Cup of Salvation. We are commanded to spread this Gospel of Jesus. Here is GREAT NEWS: whoever eats of this Bread, whoever Drinks of this cup, lives forever.

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)

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

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

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

Justin Martyr in 151AD says, *"We call this food Eucharist, and no one else is permitted to partake of it, except one who believes our teaching to be true and who has been washed in the washing which is for the remission of sins and for regeneration [i.e., has received baptism] and is thereby living as Christ enjoined. For not as common Bread nor common drink do we receive these; but since Jesus Christ our Saviour was made incarnate by the word of God and had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so too, as we have been taught, the Food which has been made into the Eucharist by the Eucharistic prayer set down by him, and by the change of which our blood and flesh is nurtured, is both the flesh and the blood of that incarnated Jesus"* (First Apology 66).

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

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

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

The Church has always been clear. They 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.

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## PROGECT 2025 "Page one."

"Today, America and the conservative movement are enduring an era of division and danger akin to the late 1970s. Now, as then, our political class has been discredited by wholesale dishonesty and corruption. Look at America under the ruling and cultural elite today: Inflation is ravaging family budgets, drug overdose deaths continue to escalate, and children suffer the toxic normalization of transgenderism with drag queens and pornography invading their school libraries. Overseas, a totalitarian Communist dictatorship in Beijing is engaged in a strategic, cultural, and economic Cold War against America's interests, values, and people—all while globalist elites in Washington awaken only slowly to that growing threat. Moreover, low-income communities are drowning in addiction and government dependence. Contemporary elites have even repurposed the worst ingredients of 1970s "radical chic" to build the totalitarian cult known today as "The Great Awakening." And now, as then, the Republican Party seems to have little understanding about what to do. Most alarming of all, the very moral foundations of our society are in peril. Yet students of history will note that, notwithstanding all those challenges, the late 1970s proved to be the moment when the political Right unified..." (Source: page 1 Mandate For Leadership, Project 2025)

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

— 8 —

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read the 2024 Republican 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**

**+ 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.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation, including



this QRCode, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact

information, including our street address.

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

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

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

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

**ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

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

**Pastor or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this Bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Kaiden:** Please set down your Bread. In the Chapel, please continue to hold your communion kit. For those at home, pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small

amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

**Brother Benedict:** Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

**Leader - 1:** At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that 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, 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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**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  
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

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

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

**\*\*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.

On Wednesday, July 3, Cam, Gary, and Annie came up from Millerton and worked from 2:00 - 7:30 PM with Brother to reduce shrubs, trees, and brush from the side yard and removed the cuttings to a compost pile at Gary and Annie's house. We are very grateful to the three of you, and Kaiden managed the monastery hospitality during these hours. Christina and Annie spent some good ministry and visiting time together too.

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

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

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

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

August 4, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.

**Nominations to the Council are open from August 4 - August 29**

August 6, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.

August 7, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

August 11, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.

August 13, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.

August 14, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

August 18, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.

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

August 20, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.

August 21, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

August 25, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.

August 26, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee.

August 27, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.

August 28, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

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

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

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

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

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



## We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Leader - 2:** We bless you and praise you God for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (\*+\*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**Leader - 2:** We pray Romans Chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together saying:

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

**Leader-4:** We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

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

**LAST SONG: He Whom The Son Sets Free.** Words and music by Martin Nystrom. © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. All rights reserved. CCLI License #706121 CCLI Song#674923 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

8-4-24 Pentecost Week 12, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr. B Page 38 of 40  
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)

