

**I.F.G.E.
Coming Together '91
Holy Eucharist**

April 14, 1991



Denver, Colorado

Reverend Alona Miller
Celebrant

Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE
Co-Celebrant

The Holy Eucharist

Opening Hymn

Amazing Grace

The Christian Life

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, John Rees (19th cent.)

Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921);
harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919)

CM

Greeting

The People Standing

Celebrant Friends in Christ, at this time of fear and grief, occasioned by the spread of AIDS, the church calls us to offer ourselves to God anew in the prayer of faith, in the hope of God's unfailing presence with us, and the love which comes from God and brings us back to God. As we hear the words of the Gospel proclaimed here and join in celebrating the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, let us hold up before God all those who suffer from AIDS, all those paralyzed or made cruel by the fear of AIDS, all those who have died of AIDS. And let us rejoice in God's love, not denying the reality of the present distress but affirming that the crucified one is risen and is in our midst.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen*

People *Blessed be His kingdom, now and for ever.*

Collect

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

People *Have mercy upon us.*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant Almighty God, source of all life, Healer of every wound, our great and perfect Refuge even in death: Pour out

your Spirit upon all whom you have created and teach us that we live from your grace alone; through Jesus Christ, your only Child, who died and was raised for us. *Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word (*People seated*)

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:6-11

Reader A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 23

Responsively

The Lord is my shepherd;*
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures*
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul*
and guides me along right pathways for His name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil,*
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;*

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,*

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Reader If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Holy Trinity

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!
 * 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee:
 cast - ing down their gold-en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt.
 Music: *Nicaea*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

11 12. 12 10

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Celebrant When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and His angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Homily

Reverend Alona Miller

A Litany in the Time of HIV/AIDS

God the Creator,
Have mercy on us.

God the Redeemer,
Have mercy on us.

God the Sanctifier,
Have mercy on us.

Draw near to us, O God,
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Be present in our sickness and pain,
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Hear us when we cry to you,
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Forgive us our transgressions,
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

We pray for the creation, the planets and stars, and the earth our home,
Help us to be committed and humble stewards.

We pray for the Church, its ministers, and all who serve God,
Give us grace to show your glory in the world.

We pray for George, our President, and the leaders of other nations,

May they govern with courage and be guided by compassionate strength.

We pray for the abiding presence and comfort of your Holy Spirit,

For it is by grace alone that we shall prosper.

We pray for courage to walk with those who are living with HIV,

Encourage our hearts and open our hands.

We pray for those who are afflicted with HIV and with any other grief or trouble,

Give us relief and quietness of spirit.

We pray for all HIV care-givers, hospital workers and researchers,

Be with them in their tasks, enliven their spirits and grant success in your time.

We pray for the families, friends, and loved ones of persons living with HIV,

Fill them with your healing and redemptive love.

We pray for the frightened, the timid and those who breed fear,

Loosen our bonds and help us to grow more and more into the likeness of Christ.

We pray for the dying,

May they know the light and joy of your presence.

We pray for those who have died of AIDS and for all the departed,

May angels surround them and saints welcome them in peace.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Concluding Collect

Celebrant God of the living and the dead: Pour out the abundance of your grace upon us and show us the comfort of those who have gone before. Strengthened in this communion of love and aided by their prayers, may we continue steadfast and faithful in our time on earth; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

First Profession of Sr. Mary Elizabeth

Celebrant Sr. Mary Elizabeth, you have completed your third year as a Novice member of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Will you now, of your own free will and request, make your first profession, vowing to live a life of religious poverty, chastity and obedience, according to the spiritual rule and constitution of your religious community?

Sr. Mary I desire to devote myself body, soul and spirit to the service of Almighty God and His people, in the religious life as a professed member of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and do so vow, God being my helper, to keep the vows of religious poverty, chastity, and obedience, and to live my life according to the spiritual rule and constitution of our religious community.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Sr. Mary I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Sr. Mary I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Sr. Mary I will, with God's help.

(All stand)

Celebrant Lord, have mercy

People *Christ, have mercy*

Celebrant Lord, have mercy

All Almighty God, look with favor upon this your servant, Mary Elizabeth, who, in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, has committed herself to you in a life of special vocation, vowing to embrace the three-fold path of poverty, chastity, and obedience as a professed sister.

Grant her the strength of your grace to persevere in her endeavor, and the guidance of the Spirit to find her true vocation. If it be your will that she continue in this way, reveal this to her, we pray, and bring her in due time to the taking of solemn vows; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant Sister Mary, may the light of Christ blind you to all else save God alone. May the strength given to Saint Francis and Saint Elizabeth be shared by you; May the Faith, Hope and Love of the Eternal Wisdom rest in you to illuminate your mind, possess your heart and direct your way now and always. *Amen.*

Peace *(All stand)*

Celebrant The peace of the lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory

Holy Communion

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right to praise and rejoice in you, O God. You reign from before all ages, in beauty and in power. You created all worlds and raised up all creatures.

Having shaped us in your image, you breathed life into us with your own breath.

When we turned against you, you turned toward us with inexhaustible love.

To draw us to yourself, you draw near us in your Son, incarnate from the flesh of Mary and dying with us on the cross.

You raised our flesh in raising Him and you filled us with your spirit.

By your grace, we come from you; by your grace, we return to you.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory.

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel

Gracious Lord, you gave your only Child to heal sickness, to cast out demons, to teach with perfection the way of love, to offer himself the one true sacrifice for sin, to open for us the way of everlasting life.

On the night He was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat. This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper He took the cup of wine; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you; This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink, do this for the remembrance of me."

Recalling now His suffering and death, and celebrating His resurrection and ascension, we await His coming in glory.

Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this memorial of our redemption.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness. Pour out your blessings upon all your creation and leave no wasteland untouched by your rain.

Extend your hand in love over all who suffer from AIDS, especially:

Names of persons with AIDS

Receive into your care all who have died of AIDS, especially:

Names of persons who have died of AIDS

Strengthen and sustain all who minister to persons with AIDS and those who seek to cure the disease.

Rescue those who are sinking beneath their fears and anxieties. Increase, among us all, wisdom and faith, love and hope so that we may look always to you for salvation.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.*

Give us today our daily bread.

*Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power, and
the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen*

The Breaking of Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread
A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Celebrant Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words.

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. *Amen.*

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. *Amen.*

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

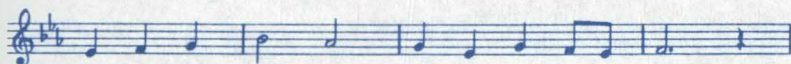
The Blessing

Celebrant The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Holy Eucharist



1 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in peace;
 2 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in love;
 3 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in strength;
 4 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in joy;



be of good cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace,
 strength-en the faint, give cour - age to the weak;
 hold fast the good, be ur - gent for the right;
 to serve God's peo - ple ev - ery day and hour,



in God's good Spi - rit dai - - ly to in - crease,
 help the af - flict - ed; rich - - ly from a - bove
 ren - der to no one e - - vil; Christ at length
 and serv - ing Christ, our ev - - ery gift em - ploy,



till in his king-dom we _____ be - hold his face.
 his love sup - plies the grace _____ and power we seek.
 shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his light.
 re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spi - rit's power.

Words: John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971) and *English Praise*, 1975, alt.

Music: *Litton*, Erik Routley (1917-1982)

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Dismissal

Celebrant What you have offered up here and what you have received back from God, go now to share with others.

People *Thanks be to God.*

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show any human being, let me do it now and not defer it. For I shall not pass this way again.

— Stephen Grellet —

*“To follow Jesus Christ today,
and into the emerging twenty-first
century, requires having faith
that Jesus Christ is here.*

*Yet when a church ever closes its doors
to keep out any person in need — or
fails to reach out in compassion — it
rejects Christ’s call for love,
service and compassion.*

*In effect, it shuts out
Jesus Christ.*

The Rev. Malcolm Boyd