Easter Vigil

April 8, 2023

Please silence your cell phone before worship begins.
❖ Young adults are gathering at Holy Wisdom! Are you seeking closer connections within a spiritual community? Join this burgeoning group for **our first bonfire on Thursday, April 13, 6:00-8:00 pm.** Come alone or bring a friend. We’re meeting casually twice a month and also planning more focused gatherings like story-telling, book groups, hikes, etc. For more info contact Nick Traxler, ntraxler@holywisdommonastery.org or Lara Dulin, ldulin@holywisdommonastery.org. You can also seek out Nick or Sister Denise after worship most Sundays. This community serves persons ~18-35 years of age. Regular gatherings are the 2nd Thursday and 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:00-8:00 pm.
Announcements

- A special welcome to guests and visitors! Thank you for joining us. We welcome you and hope that you will find a spiritual home with us. We’d love to know that you were here. Please sign our guest book on the table near the entrance. For more information about Sunday Assembly, the monastery or the sisters’ community, please see https://HolyWisdomMonastery.org or contact Lynn Lemberger. A special visitors table near the dining room entrance, hosted by our friendliest members is available for our visitors and guests. Please join us after worship for coffee and conversation.

- Communion from the Cup Resumes The Monastic Ritual Team and the Liturgy Committee have chosen to resume offering Communion from the cup. Keeping with our tradition of the “common cup”, a Communion minister at the station behind the altar, will offer the wine to those who wish to partake. This option is available at one’s own discretion.

- Gender Neutral Restrooms can be found in the Hospitality Room in the hallway just after the coat racks.

- Join Sunday Assembly! Have you been worshipping with us frequently over the last few months? We hope that you’ve found a spiritual home with us and invite you to consider becoming a member of Sunday Assembly. It’s simple. Yellow membership forms can be found at the monastery entrance. Just fill it out and return in the collection basket next Sunday or send by mail. Or sign-up through our website.

- Pastoral Care Services are available to members of the Holy Wisdom Monastery communities. For more information or to receive care, contact Sandy Adams at 608-833-2058.

- Home Communion We are looking for a few more people who are willing to take communion to members of Sunday Assembly who are ill or homebound. Steve Zwettler will provide training. Thank you to Ross Oesterich, Murilo Zacareli and Steve Zwettler who are currently serving as home communion ministers. If you are interested in serving in this capacity or if you are homebound and wish to receive communion or Pastoral Care services, please contact Sandy Adams on the Pastoral Care Team at 608-833-2058 or adamssandra454@gmail.com.

- Evolutionary Exploration Series of Presentations Join us for the next 2 sessions held from 10:00–11:30 am on: April 25, Transformational Leadership; and May 2, “Mission” Evolution and Transformation. Register at: https://holywisdommonastery.org/event/evolutionary-exploration/

- Climate Action - Local Food Production, Sunday, April 16, 10:15 – 11:30 am. Blue Moon Community Agriculture & Meadowlark Organics & Community Mill will inform us on how local food production makes a difference for climate change. Register by April 15th at https://holywisdommonastery.org/event/local-food-production/

- Thank a volunteer - send them a postcard! April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we’re inviting our entire community to help us personally thank our monastery volunteers...by flooding them with thank-you cards! A table is set up in the gathering space with blank postcards and instructions. After writing your note, drop the postcard in the box and we’ll take care of addressing, stamping, and mailing it. Postcards will be available all month long.

- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch - April 20th, 11:45 am - 1 pm Volunteers, let the coworkers and sisters treat you to lunch! We want to thank you for all the ways that you share your gifts with us. Register online at holywisdommonastery.org by April 12th.

Welcome Everyone!

Tonight, we continue the celebration of the Easter Triduum—the three days-Holy Thursday evening through Easter Sunday evening, the culmination of the entire church year when, we commemorate the last days of Jesus’ life on earth, his passion and resurrection.

In tonight’s service we gather to hear the stories of salvation history. The liturgy continues with the lighting of the new fire and the Easter candle. The Exsultet is sung followed by the great “Alleluia” and the Easter Gospel. The Easter water is blessed and we join in the profession of faith. The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows. Everyone is welcome to participate fully in the prayer.

Introduction

All stand as you are able.

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Readings

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Following each reading:

Reader: The Word of Salvation

All: Thanks be to God

Silence for reflection follows each reading.

Psalm 104

Send out your Spirit over the waters: you will renew the face of the earth.


Second Reading

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Exodus 15

Sing to God, sing to God, co-vered in glo-ry: O sing to God.

Third Reading

Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4

Psalm 19

In silence we proceed outside to the Patio for the lighting of the Easter Fire.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Blessing of the Easter Fire

Dedication and Lighting of the Easter Candle

Procession

All follow the Easter Candle and process to the Assembly Room.

We join in singing the response:

Cantor Christ our light.
All respond Thanks be to God.

Exsultet Most Holy Night

To light your candle, please tip it toward your neighbor’s upright, lighted candle.

Most holy night, most blessed of nights, when Christ broke the chains of the darkness! God’s mighty love is stronger than death. Christ our Light shines forever.

Presider

The bread which we break, is it not communion in the body of Christ? The cup of blessing which we share, is it not communion in the blood of Christ?

All

So all of us are one body, all who share the one bread and drink from the cup.

Communion Rite

All are welcome to receive Communion. Our Communion bread is gluten-free. Come to any of the locations in the room.

One station is behind the altar, with the option to also receive the wine. Other stations, with only the bread, are at the side exit and near the piano.

A time of silent reflection follows our sharing of Communion.

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Dismissal

Concluding Hymn

Resucitó

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A social follows our liturgy. All are welcome to join us in the dining room for conversation and refreshments.
God of faithfulness, grant that Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and all the first witnesses to the resurrection, be strong encouragement and support for us.

Stir up your Spirit in churches and communities everywhere, that we may be renewed in faith and love. Grant that all peoples of the world be committed to justice and peace.

Source of eternal light, may all our loved ones who have died share in the Easter promise of risen life. May the dying and those who grieve trust in your consolation and hope. For it is in you, that we live and move and have our being.

Through Christ, with Christ…… for ever and ever.

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The Prayer of Jesus
Holy One, our only Home, blessed be your name. May your day dawn, your will be done, here, as in heaven. Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other. Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil. For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread
Come and eat this liv-ing bread, take and drink this wine.
Come be nourished, healed and fed, shaped into God's sign.
Gathered round as fam-i-ly, many are made one.
Form-ing love's com-mu-ni-ty, one we now be-come.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
New Testament Reading
The candles are extinguished.
All are seated.

Epistle
Romans 6:3-11

Gospel Acclamation
Honduran Alleluia
All stand as you are able.

Gospel
Matthew 28:1-10
Before the Gospel,
Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All: Glory to you, O Christ

Following the Gospel,
Reader: The holy Gospel
All: Praise to you, O Jesus Christ

Homily
All are seated.

Renewal of Baptism
Introduction and Procession to the Font
Blessing of Water

We come to the font to bless ourselves and each other with the new Easter water. The procession continues as we go back to our places in the Assembly Room. You may be seated when you return to your place.

General Intercessions  Response:  Risen Savior, hear our prayer.  All stand as you are able.

Sign of Peace

Presentation of the Gifts

A basket is available on the table to receive your donations. Thank you for your generosity. Members of the assembly bring the gifts of bread, wine and our offering to the altar.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer for the Easter Vigil

All join in proclaiming the Eucharist Prayer. The Assembly parts are in Bold.

Presider  The Holy One be with you.
All  And also with you.
Presider  Lift up your hearts.
All  We lift them up to God.
Presider  Let us give thanks to our God.
All  It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All glorious and ever living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus, the Risen One.

We praise you with greater joy than ever on this Easter night.
Jesus is risen!
The power of death could not contain him.
The stone was moved and he broke forth from the tomb.
He appeared to the women, offering them and all believers new life.

Blest are you, O Most High,
for you give us the joy of walking in Easter light.

Raised by the Spirit, Jesus who was crucified now lives.
Send that same life-giving Spirit
upon these simple gifts of bread and wine and upon us,
that we may rejoice in the fullness of his presence.

For at the last meal he ate with his friends,
Jesus took bread and blessed you, O God for all your gifts.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and proclaimed a new creation as he said: Take and eat. This is my body, given for you.
And at the end of the meal, he took the cup and blessed you, O God for your faithfulness saying: Take and drink.
This cup is a new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for people everywhere for the reconciliation of all.
Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Source of all blessing, we praise you for the Passover of Jesus.
Fill us with the Spirit of risen life
that we might feast with joy at this table
and bear witness to your commandment of love.