

The Fire of Hope, April 30-May 2 John Philip Newell and Cami Twilling return to Holy Wisdom for the first of three retreats in a new series, "The Fire of Hope." Join John Philip and Cami in seeking "to nurture the fire of love, the fire of desire, and the fire of courage within us," explorations guided by the wisdom of Leo Tolstoy, Simone Weil, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Details and registration available on the Holy Wisdom website with a registration deadline of April 22.

Spring Emergence: A Seasonal Retreat, April 14-15 The faint gauze of spring green appearing on the prairie's winter browns invites you to look for your own signs of new growth. This retreat invites you sit with the first indications of a new season – on the prairie and in your own life. It will hold space for your hushed anticipation with conversations about the season, walks on the prairie, naps, art, movement, and more. Facilitated by Amy Alstad and Pam Shellberg. Details and registration available on the Holy Wisdom website with a registration deadline of April 6.

Kids On the Prairie, April 19 - Signs of Spring! Children twelve and under and their adults are invited to explore the Lost Lake area with volunteer guides. We'll look for signs of creatures near Lost Lake and flowers that feed the first pollinators. We may hear Chorus frogs. Meet at the parking lot kiosk at 10:30. Register online under Upcoming Events.

Holy Wisdom Monastery Mission, Vision and Values

Mission Holy Wisdom Monastery, home of Benedictine Women of Madison and a community of ecumenical Benedictine communities, weaves prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life.

Vision Holy Wisdom Monastery welcomes people into sacred space and our community of communities to pray, study and nourish one another. Compelled by the Gospel and rooted in the Benedictine tradition, we support personal and community growth as we live out our mission and values in a changing world.

Values The Benedictine values of beauty, balance, simplicity, silence and respect for people provide board members, coworkers and members of related communities with common guidelines for day-to-day functioning and the implementation of the Ends.

Sunday Assembly Mission, Vision and Values

Mission Sunday Assembly of Holy Wisdom Monastery is an ecumenical Christian community rooted in Benedictine spirituality. In our weekly liturgy of prayer, music and contemplation, we share Eucharist with all, without exception, and nourish our commitment to peace and justice.

Vision We seek to grow spiritually and joyfully through the transforming power of love and service as proclaimed in the Gospel.

Values We value hospitality, inclusivity, ecumenism, care for the earth, compassion and justice.

The Easter Vigil Most Holy Night

April 4, 2026



Holy Wisdom Monastery

4200 County Road M
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562
608.836.1631
HolyWisdomMonastery.org

**Our liturgy begins in silence in the Assembly Room
with the Liturgy of the Word.**

Introduction and Welcome

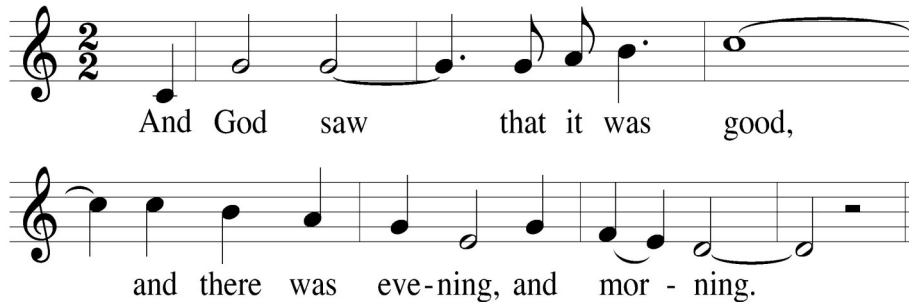
All stand as you are able.

Liturgy of the Word Old Testament Reading

All are seated.

Reading

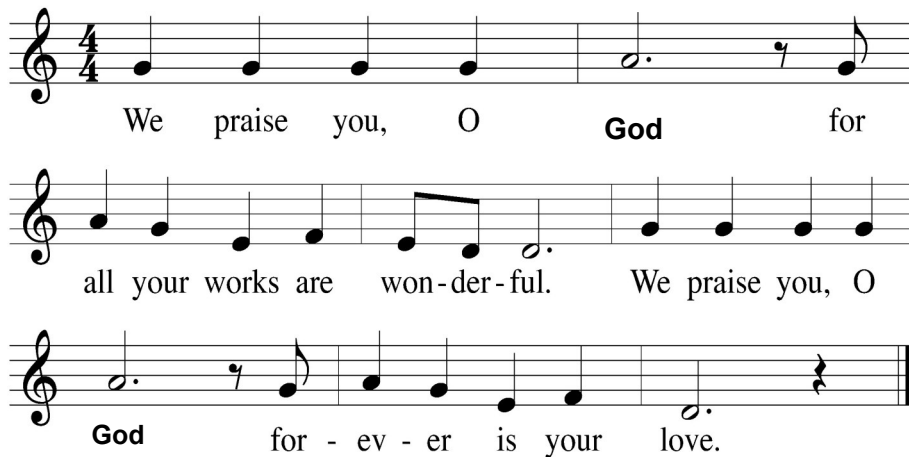
Genesis 1:1-2:4a



And God saw that it was good,
and there was eve-ning, and mor - ning.

We Praise You, O Lord

Refrain



We praise you, O God for
all your works are won-der-ful. We praise you, O
God for - ev - er is your love.

Following each reading:

Reader: The Word of Salvation

All: Thanks be to God

A time of silent reflection follows each reading as we practice the Benedictine value of listening.

Today's Ministers:

Presider	Lynne Smith, OSB, prioress
Homilist	Pam Shellberg
Lectors	David McKee, Margaret Sommers, Rita Emmenegger, Sue Koleczek
Greeters	Joyce Wodka, Jeanne Marquis, Kathy Woytych
Communion	Ed Emmenegger, Paula Dinndorf Kathy Woytych, Alison McKee Jim Selinske
Sacristan	Margaret Sommers, Diane Smith
Bread Baker	Rita Emmenegger
Cantor	Ann Baltes, Bill Rosholt
Violin	Grace Rosholt
Technology	Jim Penczykowski
Worship/Music	Bill Frederick Sunday Assembly Choir

Please join us for Hospitality following Sunday Assembly this evening!

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"Genesis Reading for the Great Vigil" by: Rory Cooney, GIA Publications, "You will draw water joyfully" by Marty Haugen, GIA Publications, "Psalm 103 Our God is rich in kindness" by: Peter Kolar, World Library Publications, "Most Holy Night" by Dan Schutte, OCP Publications, "Festival Alleluia" by: James Chepponis, GIA Publications, "River of Glory" by Dan Schutte, OCP Publications, "Mass of Creation" by Marty Haugen, GIA Publications, "Be known to us Christ Jesus" by: Anne Krenz, Augsburg Fortress Publications, "Spring Is Spreading Through The Prairie" by Barbara Battin, HWM, "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Announcements

Easter Donations: It is not customary at Sunday Assembly to pass a collection basket during worship. However, we would like to give everyone including guests and visitors the opportunity to help support Sunday Assembly. Inside the Bulletin for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, look for a special envelope to use for your contribution during the Easter Liturgies. You may put your envelope in the basket in front of the altar. Additional envelopes will be available at the front entrance and on the table near the nametag cabinet at Easter. If you are traveling during Easter, feel free to make your gift today or bring your envelope the next time you attend Sunday Assembly. Thank you for your generosity.

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. Gold 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. If you are a guest or visitor please sign our guestbook at the table near the entrance!

Pastoral Care Services are available to members of the Holy Wisdom Monastery communities. For more information or to receive care, contact Jane Ahlstrom at 608-222-5139 or janeahlstrom@sbcglobal.net.

A Gender Neutral Restroom can be found in the Hospitality Room in the hallway just after the coat racks.

Save the date! The Second annual Spring Solar Tilt is set for Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 3:00 PM. Rain date is: May 20th. Join us as one of 90 volunteers who will tilt Holy Wisdom's solar panels! Please register through the website!

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch - April 9th: If you are a volunteer at the monastery (including supporting Sunday Assembly in any way) please join us on April 9th at Noon for an appreciation lunch. We can't wait to celebrate you! Registrations required. Sign up online or call by April 2nd:

<https://holywisdommonastery.org/event/volunteer-appreciation-lunch-26/> or 608-836-1631 x120.

Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

Response

You Will Draw Water

Three staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The lyrics are: You will draw wa - ter joy - ful - ly, joy - ful - ly from the springs of sal - va - tion.

1. See, God is my salvation, I will trust and will not be afraid, For our God is our strength and our praise, for God has been my salvation. With joy will we draw water, from the springs of salvation.
2. Give thanks unto God, invoke God's name, make known among the people God's deeds; Proclaim that God's name is exalted, Proclaim that God's name is exalted!
3. Sing unto God who has wrought wonders; let this be known through all the earth. Shout aloud and sing praise, shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Reading

Baruch 3:9-15 32:4:4

Response

Our God Is Rich In Kindness

Two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The lyrics are: Our - God is rich in kind - ness, a - bound-ing in com - pas - sion.

1. My soul shall bless our God, for God is good! And all my being praise God's holy name, My soul shall bless our God for God is good, and shall not forget all of God's goodness!
2. God forgives our iniquities and cures us from all sickness and our ills. God redeems our lives from the traps of evil and crowns us with compassion love and mercy.
3. For as far as the east is from the west so even further has God put guilt and sins from us. As a mother feels compassion for her children, so does God feel compassion for the faithful!

Service of Light

Greeting

Blessing of the Easter Fire

Dedication and Lighting of the Easter Candle

**All: May the light of Christ, rising in glory
dispel the darkness
from our hearts and minds.**

Procession

All follow the Easter Candle and process to the Assembly Room. We join in singing the response:

Cantor: Christ our light.

All: Thanks be to God!

Exsultet

Most Holy Night



Most ho-ly night, most bless-ed of nights, when Christ broke the



chains of the dark - ness! God's might-y love is



strong-er than death. Christ our Light shines for - ev - er.

Prayer After Communion

Easter Solemn Sending Forth



Go in the peace of Christ, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - - - lu - ia.
Thanks be to God, al - le - lu ia, al - le - - - lu - ia.

Hymn of Praise

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!

The sisters, and Sunday Assembly welcome you to Holy Wisdom Monastery! We are so happy that you have joined us today! If this is your first time here, please come again! You are standing on holy ground, a place that accepts and loves all, no matter what Christian denomination or background you come from... At Holy Wisdom we continue our prayer "That All May Be One" and everyone is encouraged to find a spiritual home with us. We wish you a happy Easter season!

Communion Hymn

Spring Is Spreading Through

1. Spring is spread-ing through the prai-rie; grass-es green-ing flow-ers bloom.
 2. Res-ur-rec-tion weaves its pat-tern in each an-i-mal and tree.
 3. May we then in our own liv-ing emp-ty out our per-sonal tombs,

Birds are sing-ing; songs re-fresh-ing heal the soul of win-ter's gloom.
 In the mea-dows, at the lake-side, re-birth for us all to see.
 Leave be-hind the past, its bur-dens, born a-gain from Sa-cred Womb.

Col-ors now ap-pear trans-form-ing earth in-to a gar-den place.
 From the deep soil, from the-dark-ness, from the-fal-low time of year,
 Eas-ter chang-es heart and-spir-it; res-ur-rec-tion now is real.

Ho-ly breeze of God's own Spir-it makes the knoll a Sa-cred Space.
 From the death that brings new liv-ing, blos-som, bloom, and fruit ap-pear.
 Cos-mic Christ dwells deep with-in us, form-ing us in com-mon-weal.

Text: Rev. Barbara Battin, ©2001, Holy Wisdom Monastery, *Benedictine Bridge*
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, 87 87 D Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867

Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

All are seated

Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Gospel Acclamation

Festival Alleluia

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

Before the Gospel:

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All Glory to you, O Christ.

This refrain is sung within and after the reading

Following the Gospel:

Reader The holy Gospel

All Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

Homily

Renewal of Baptism

Blessing of Water

Festival Alleluia Page 5

Baptism of Amelia "Mimi" Zanzig

Parents Adam and Stacy Sponsors Tom and Barb

Laying on of hands and anointing, lighting of baptismal candle

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Assembly responds: "I do"

Sign of Peace

Sprinkling Rite

River Of Glory

Refrain

Riv - er of glo - ry, springs of our birth, flood of God's

rich - es poured on the earth. We are born from the dark - ness

and clothed in the light! We are bathed in the glo - ry of

God! God, bathed in the glo - ry of God!

Verses

1. Foun - tain of mer - cy, grace flow - ing free, streams of sal -
2. Here there is ha - ven, heal - ing and health, joy for the
3. Bread for our jour - ney God will pro - vide. Hope for all
4. Dark - ness is ban - ished, night turned a - way. Christ is our

1. va - tion, spill - ing with love from a tree!
2. ask - ing, love in a - bun - dance of wealth!
3. a - ges, Je - sus, com - pan - ion and guide!
4. sun - light, lift - ing and lead - ing our way!

Breaking of the Bread

Be known to us, Christ Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

A - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Christ Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

Reception of Communion

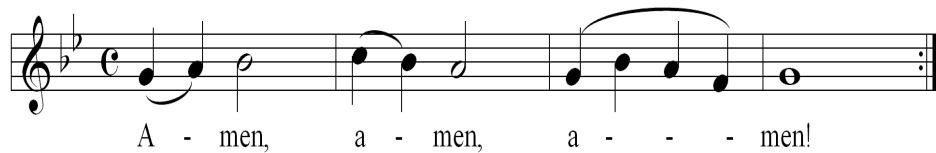
*Our Communion bread is gluten-free. All are welcome to receive Communion. Come to any one of the four locations in the room. Two stations are behind the Table, one at the side exit, and one near the organ. The **Cup of Wine, in the glass cup** will be distributed behind the Table, as will the **grape juice in the pewter cup**.*

Amelia and her family will receive communion first, then all are invited to come forward.

**God of the living and the dead,
may all our loved ones who have died,
share in the Easter promise of risen life,
and may the dying know the consolation
of promise and hope.**

**God of all life,
may this promise keep us in faith
until Christ comes again in glory.**

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, O God,
forever and ever.



Eucharistic Prayer for the Easter Vigil, K. Smits, adapted L. Lemberger,
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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**

Intercessions *Response:* Risen Jesus, hear our prayer

Preparation of the Gifts

*A basket is available on the table to receive your donations.
Thank you so very much for your generosity! The gifts of
bread, wine and the offering are received by the presider on
our behalf.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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, our risen savior.

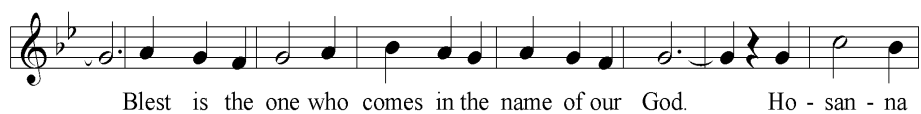
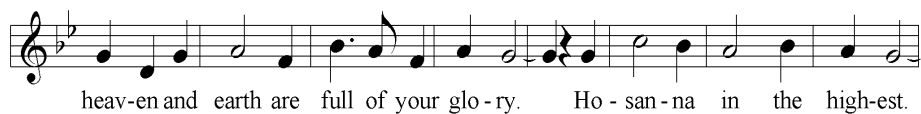
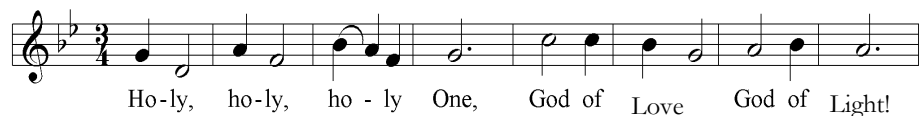
**We praise you with greater joy than ever
on this Easter night.**

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.**

The joy of the risen life of Jesus renews
the whole world;
we join with Christians everywhere
in our unceasing hymn of praise.



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

**Jesus who was crucified lives,
raised by the Spirit to new life.
Send that same life-giving Spirit
upon these simple gifts of bread and wine
that we may eat and drink with Jesus
and 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 saving deeds.
He broke the bread, gave them to eat,
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 all, for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this as a memorial of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:



God of the new creation,
we praise you for the Passover of Jesus.
May the Spirit fill us with risen life
that we might feast with joy
at the table of blessing and bear witness
to the commandment of love.

**God of our parents,
grant that Mary, the mother of Jesus,
and all those holy people
first witnesses to the resurrection,
be strong encouragement and support for us.**

Stir up the Spirit in Christian churches everywhere,
that they be renewed in faith
and love this Easter night.
Grant that all peoples of the world
be committed to justice and peace for all.