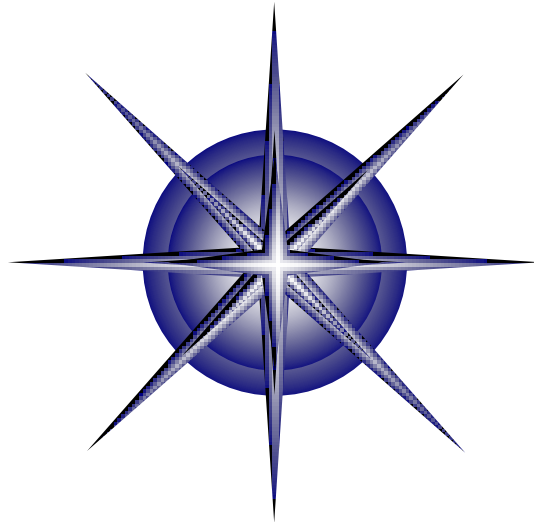


Liturgy
for the
Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows,
the Consecration of Chrism,
and the
Profession and Consecration
of an
Anchorite



Tuesday in Holy Week
6 April 2004

St. Mark's Cathedral
Seattle

ABOUT THIS MORNING'S CELEBRATIONS

OUR HOLY WEEK GATHERING

We gather this morning, the clergy of the Diocese of Olympia, for our customary Holy Week reaffirmation of Ordination Vows, Eucharistic Meal and Consecration of Chrism. We come together to celebrate the oneness in Christ we enjoy through our baptism and to recommit ourselves to the service of God's people through the collegial ministry we share by ordination. Our liturgy is open to everyone, and we welcome those lay ministers and members of the priesthood of all the baptized who gather to celebrate with us, making the day richer for all.

TODAY'S SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Today our sister, Susan Creighton, priest of this diocese, takes life vows as a solitary, an anchorite. She makes this individual commitment to her particular service of God and our diocese during our communal Eucharist, much as baptismal candidates, ordinands, and couples celebrating marriage make their vows in the context of a communal liturgy. The communal celebration of vows enacts the reality that God's call to the individual is always a call to ministry for the sake of the larger community and God's call to the community is always to support one another in the varied vocations to which we are called.

HOW THE TWO LITURGIES COMBINE

Susan spent much time in prayer planning the rites of her profession, which are based on the ancient vows of monastics and solitaires. For today's celebration, these rites have been interwoven with the liturgy we customarily celebrate as the clergy community on the Tuesday of Holy Week. In conversation with the Bishop and the liturgical staff of the Cathedral a model was created which provided for Susan and a community of friends and colleagues to gather in Thomsen Chapel at 10:30 for the initial rites of Examination and The Litany for an Anchorite, while others gather at the usual time in the nave in preparation for the Eucharist at 11:00.

At the conclusion of the initial Rites for the Profession of an Anchorite, probably shortly after 11 o'clock, Bishop Warner, Susan and those gathered in Thomsen Chapel will process into the Nave, joining those already gathered in prayer and song. The Liturgy of the Word for Tuesday in Holy Week then begins. After the renewal of Clergy Vows, Susan will profess her life vows, be consecrated as an Anchorite and receive the symbols of her vocation. Prayers of the Assembly, the Peace, the Eucharist and the Consecration of Chrism follow.

Let us rejoice with our sister Susan and give thanks for her offering of her self and her life in this particular service of God and our diocese! May we all be blessed this day and in our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter!

Examination and Litany for an Anchorite

10:30 am
Thomsen Chapel

The Gathering

Gathering Music

Brian Fairbanks, Flute

Opening Acclamation

Presider
Assembly

Blessed be the God of our salvation:
Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Collect

O God, by whose grace the mystics, kindled with the flame of your love, became burning and shining lights in your Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Jeanann Francis

Luke 10:38-42 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Response

Bishop Warner

The Examination of the Anchorite

Calling of the Candidate

*The Bishop with miter and staff, goes to the chair and sits.
All in the congregation sit.
He invites the candidate to come forward.*

Bishop: Susan, come, that the Lord may receive the resolution you have formed in your heart.

Examination

The Bishop then questions her on her readiness to dedicate herself to God, according to her Rule of Life as an Anchorite.

- Bishop:** Susan, what do you ask of God and the Church?
- Susan:** I ask to make my profession as an Anchorite, by making vows of Silence, Solitude, and Simplicity, and thereby living my life totally for God, and in service of His Body, the Church.
- Bishop:** Susan, in baptism you committed your life to Christ, and were raised by him to new life. In your priesthood, you have served Him as pastor, priest, and teacher. Are you now resolved to more fully dedicate yourself to living for God alone through your vows, and life as an anchorite in the ancient tradition of the Church?
- Susan:** I AM.
- Bishop:** Are you resolved to strive steadfastly for perfection in the love of God and of your neighbor by living the Gospel with all your heart and keeping your Rule of Life to which I have given my blessing?
- Susan:** I AM.
- Bishop:** Are you resolved to give yourself to God alone, in solitude and silence and simplicity of life, through persevering prayer, study of the scriptures, and holiness of life?
- Susan:** I AM.
- Bishop:** May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment before the day of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Litany and Prayer for an Anchorite

Invitation to Prayer

Then all stand, and the Bishop, without his miter and staff, invites the Assembly to pray.

- Bishop:** Dearly beloved, let us pray to God the Almighty Father through his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ that, by the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, he will pour out the Holy Spirit of love on Susan who has been chosen to be consecrated as an Anchorite in the service of the Kingdom of God. AMEN.

Litany

Carol White

Kneel, or stand in prayer.

<p>O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful, O holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, one God.</p>	}	<i>Have mercy upon us.</i>
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Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Holy angels of God
Saint John the Baptist
Saint John the Evangelist
Saint Anthony of Egypt
Saint Macarius the Confessor
Saint Gregory of Nyssa
Saint John Climacus
Saint John of the Cross
Saint Teresa of Avila
Blessed Brother Lawrence
Dame Julian of Norwich
Blessed Richard Rolle
All holy hermits and anchorites of God
All holy men and women

Pray for us.

From all evil, sin, and everlasting death,
From all blindness of heart, inordinate
affections, and all temptations,
From all illusions, deceptions, and
falsehoods,

*Good Lord,
deliver us.*

By the mystery of your Incarnation,
By your Passion, Death and Resurrection,
By your Ascension to the Right Hand of God,
By your gift of the Holy Spirit.

In your great goodness, have mercy upon all
whom you have made.

Hear us, good Lord.

In your great mercy, lead all humanity
to the fullness of your love.

Hear us, good Lord.

In your great love, fill our hearts with
forgiveness, compassion, and justice.

Hear us, good Lord.

This day and always, fill Susan with
the light of your presence.

Hear us, good Lord.

Strengthen her with perseverance,
discrimination, and wisdom.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bless her always with the grace to recognize,
embrace and endure your perfect will.

Hear us good Lord

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us your peace.

Silence

Bishop: Lord, grant the prayers of your people. Prepare the heart of your servant for consecration to your service. By the grace of the Holy Spirit purify her from all sin and set her on fire with your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Bishop, Susan and Assembly now process to the Nave,
joining the others already assembled.*

Liturgy for the Blessing of Chrism, the Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows, and the Profession and Consecration of an Anchorite

11:00 am
Nave of St. Mark's Cathedral

In the Nave, the Bishop and ministers of the liturgy proceed to the altar.
The anchorite is seated near the front, and the remainder of the procession
from the chapel join the assembly already gathered.

Gathering Music	<i>What wondrous love is this?</i>	<i>The Hymnal 1982, #439</i>
	<i>Were you there?</i>	<i>The Hymnal 1982, #439</i>
Entrance Hymn	<i>Where charity and love prevail</i>	<i>The Hymnal 1982, #581</i>

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation:
Assembly *Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.*

Trisagion (*Archangelsky*) (*sung three times*) *The Hymnal 1982, #S-102*
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Liturgy of the Word

Presider The Lord be with you.
Assembly *And also with you.*
Presider Let us pray.

Collect for Tuesday in Holy Week

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer

shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Old Testament Reading , Isaiah 40:1-6

Listen to me, O coastlands,
 pay attention, you peoples from far away!
 The LORD called me before I was born,
 while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
 He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
 he made me a polished arrow,
 in his quiver he hid me away.
 And he said to me, "You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
 But I said, "I have labored in vain,
 I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
 yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
 and my reward with my God."
 And now the LORD says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
 to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
 for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—
 he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;
 I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Psalms 71:1-12

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; *
 let me never be ashamed.
- 2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; *
 incline your ear to me and save me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
 you are my crag and my stronghold.
- 4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, *
 from of the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.
- 5 For you are my hope, O LORD God, *
 my confidence since I was young.
- 6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
 from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
 my praise shall be always of you.
- 7 I have become a portent to many; *

but you are my refuge and my strength.

- 8 Let my mouth be full of your praise *
and your glory all the day long.
- 9 Do not cast me off in my old age; *
forsake me not when my strength fails.
- 10 For my enemies are talking against me, *
and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.
- 11 They say, "God has forsaken him;
go after him and seize him; *
because there is none who will save."
- 12 O God, be not far from me; *
come quickly to help me, O my God.

Epistle, I Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Gradual Hymn

Take my life and let it be

The Hymnal 1982, #707

Gospel, John 12:37-38, 42-50

Although he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "Lord, who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.

Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Fa-

ther who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.”

Homily

Bishop Warner

Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows

After the Sermon, the Bishop sits in a chair before the Altar and addresses those who are to renew their vows. They stand facing the Bishop.

Dear Friends, the ministry we share is none other than the sacrificial ministry of Christ, who gave himself up to death on the cross for the salvation of the world. By his glorious resurrection he has opened for us the way of everlasting life. By the gift of the Holy Spirit he shares with us the riches of his grace.

We are called to proclaim his death and resurrection, to administer the Sacraments of the New Covenant which he sealed with his blood on the cross, and to care for his people in the power of the Spirit.

Do you here, in the presence of Christ and his Church, renew your commitment to your ministry, under the pastoral direction of your Bishop?

Answer I do.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your promise to give yourself to prayer and study?

Answer I do.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your promise so to minister the Word of God and the Sacraments of the New Covenant that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Answer I do.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your promise to be a faithful servant of all those committed to your care, patterning your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?”

Answer I do.

The Bishop then stands and makes this affirmation

And now, as your Bishop, I, too, before God and you, re-dedicate myself and reaffirm the promises that I made when I was ordained. I ask your prayers.

Bishop and Clergy

May the Lord who has given us the will to do these things, give us also the grace and power to perform them.

Profession and Consecration of an Anchorite

Profession of Vows

The Bishop, with miter and staff sits. The candidate comes forward to declare her profession of the vows. Standing before the Bishop and the witnesses, and with her hands in the Bishop's, she makes her profession

Bishop Susan, you have prepared for this day through years of prayer, study, and service. You have been examined by me as to your intent to dedicate your life to God as an anchorite. You have written, and follow, a *Rule of Life* in accord with the ancient tradition. Come, now, and make your vows to God.

Susan Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Eternal One, hear my prayer. Down through the ages You have called the faithful in every race and nation to be aflame with Your Light: So, too, have You called me all my days to surrender all that I am to Your Love, and to live my life for You alone.

Now, in the presence of the Your Church, and under the authority of your servant, Vincent, Bishop of Olympia, I, **Susan Creighton**, vow to God Almighty, to live my life as an Anchorite, under the vows of Solitude, Silence, and Simplicity according to my Rule.

Receive my offering, O Lord, my mind, my body, my Soul. Receive me into Your Heart, Your Love, Your Light. And grant in Your mercy, O Lord, that always I will be faithful in living this life for You alone, trusting that, by Your grace and mercy, Your Presence fills my Solitude each day and each hour; Your Voice sings in my Silence, and Your Abundance overflows my life of Simplicity.

In the Name of God the Father who created me;

In the Name of God the Spirit who sustains me;

In the Name of God the Son who calls me Home. Amen.

Acceptance of Vows:

Bishop: By the authority entrusted to me, and in the name of the Church, I receive your vows made to God. I earnestly commend you to God, that your gift of self, made one with the sacrifice of the Eucharist, may be brought to perfection

Prayer of Consecration

*After the profession of vows, the anchorite kneels.
The Bishop putting aside miter and staff, extends his hands over her,
and prays the prayer of consecration.*

Bishop: Almighty God, source of all life, you have called your servant Susan to a life surrendered to you alone. Pour out your spirit upon her, O Lord, as she places in your hands her resolve to live in Solitude, Silence, and Simplicity.

May she remember you with every breath; may her words give you reverence, honor, and praise; and may her every action reveal your love and your truth. Be her comfort in sorrow, her wisdom in perplexity, her protection in the midst of injustice, her patience in adversity, her remedy in times of sickness.

And now may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon her this day, and for ever more. Amen.

Giving of the Symbols of Consecration

After the prayer of consecration, the Bishop and people sit. The professed anchorite stands.

- Bishop:** Bless, O Lord, this ring, cross, and scapular that they may be signs of the vows by which Susan has bound herself to you alone.
- Bishop:** Susan, wear this Scapular, as a sign of your vow of Simplicity, never forgetting that you are ever called to stand unprotected before God, that His abundant Love may take possession of you.
- Susan:** Amen.
- Bishop:** Susan, wear this Cross, as a sign of your vow of Silence, that you may always hear God's voice within your heart, calling you to faithful obedience.
- Susan:** Amen
- Bishop:** Susan, wear this ring, as a sign of your vow of Solitude, remembering always that you are living your life for God alone, as you dwell in Christ, and He in you.
- Susan:** Amen

Signing the Documents

After the symbols of consecration have been received, the anchorite goes to the altar and places on it the formula of profession. She signs it, as does the Bishop, and other witnesses.

The Prayers of the Assembly

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bishop Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders of ministers in your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are called to any office and ministry for your people; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine, and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before you to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Peace

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Assembly And also with you.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

Offertory Hymn

Come, My Way, my Truth, my Life

The Hymnal 1982, #487

*The Assembly remain standing.
The Presider, faces them and sings or says*

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

Assembly We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Sanctus-Benedictus (Schubert/Proulx)

The Hymnal 1982, #S-130

Presider and Assembly

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 Assembly stand or kneel.
Then the Presider continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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 it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and Assembly

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Presider continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with holy hermits and anchorites and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Assembly and Presider

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Facing the Assembly, the Presider says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. 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, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

Father, we thank thee

Communion Hymn:
The Hymnal 1982, #302

Presider and Assembly

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Consecration of Oil of Chrism

Bishop: Dear Friends in Christ: In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the creation; and, throughout history, God, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, has empowered his people to serve him. As a sign of that gift, the priests and kings of Israel were anointed with oil; and our Lord Jesus was himself anointed with the Holy Spirit at his Baptism as the Christ, God's own Messiah. At Baptism, Christians are likewise anointed by that same Spirit to empower them for God's service. Let us now set apart this oil to be the sign of that anointing.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, whose blessed Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Savior and servant of all, we pray you to consecrate this oil, that those who are sealed with it may share in the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Blessing of Oil of Unction

Bishop: O Lord, holy Father, giver of health and salvation: Send your Holy Spirit to sanctify this oil; that, as your holy apostles anointed many that were sick and healed them, so may those who in faith and repentance receive this holy unction be made whole; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Assembly: *Thanks be to God.*



Rule of Life for an Anchorite (excerpts)

*My soul is occupied,
And all my substance in His service;
Now I guard no flock,
Nor have I any other employment:
My sole occupation is love.*

John of the Cross

Solitude ~ Celibate Chastity / Integrity

The vow of **Solitude** expresses and enables a life in which, through a life of celibate chastity, the whole of one's creative and relational impulses are directed inwardly, toward the love of God alone. The witness of Solitude to the world is expressed through silence of the spiritual heart, rather than through deeds and activities. And, while outward relationships with friends, family, colleagues, and others, are respected and cherished, and maintained with compassion and charity, the fundamental focus upon God overshadows all else.

Silence ~ Obedience / Surrender

The vow of **Silence** is not the absence of speech, but rather is an expression of the deepest obedience and surrender to St. Paul's admonition to "*pray without ceasing*", **1 Thes. 5:17**. The resultant interior silence detaches one from activities that distract from the singular mystical call of God. Obedience to this silence of the heart is essential to the recognition of God's action through circumstances of life, with its challenges and gifts, and leads us to a deeper surrender which knows God as the Source of All.

Simplicity ~ Poverty / Generosity

The vow of **Simplicity** is an expression of spiritual discrimination, through which one continually sorts out and pares away anything which does not lead to mystical union with God. A simplified, ordinary life-style is maintained, but with constant awareness within the heart of which tasks, possessions, desires, and thoughts lead to God, and which do not. Such discrimination enables both detachment and generosity, as we recognize at deeper and deeper levels that all things can be viewed as a gift from God.