Church of St. Francis Xavier

~ A Jesuit Apostolate in New York City since 1847 ~

World AIDS Day Mass of Remembrance December 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM



St. Aloysius carrying a plague victim, Gonzaga University

37th World AIDS Day theme: "Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress."

On this World AIDS Day, let us renew our commitment to united action. Let us honor the lives lost, celebrate the progress made, and work tirelessly to ensure a future free from HIV. Together, we are stronger and, together, we will succeed. We know that only by working collaboratively with communities most affected, researchers, healthcare providers, and other partners can our government be successful in ending the pandemic and ensuring a sustained response to HIV.

Welcome: John Weber
Team Captain AIDS Walk NY

Song of Gathering: Servant Song, Gillard





Text: Richard Gillard Tune: Richard Gillard; harm. by Betty Pulkingham, b.1929 © 1977, Scripture in Song

Opening Prayer

AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE: Lighting of the AIDS Candles

God, we thank you that you have made each one of us in your own image and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you. We thank you for those whose lives we have shared and whom we remember this night. We thank you for the good we have experienced in them and for the blessing they have been to us. Give us faith to leave them in your care, confident in your promises.

Response after each candle lighting:

All: Your presence is in us. Your presence is around us. Your presence is hope.

First Reading: First Reading: Isaiah 58:5-8

Psalm 63: I long for you, Balhoff

Psalm 63 I Long for You, O Lord



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Second Reading: James 2:14-24, 26

Third Reading: After the Plague Years by Alex Carter

Gospel Acclamation

Hallelujah!



Bring us healing and wholeness, O God So we may proclaim your Gospel

Gospel: Matthew 22:33 -40

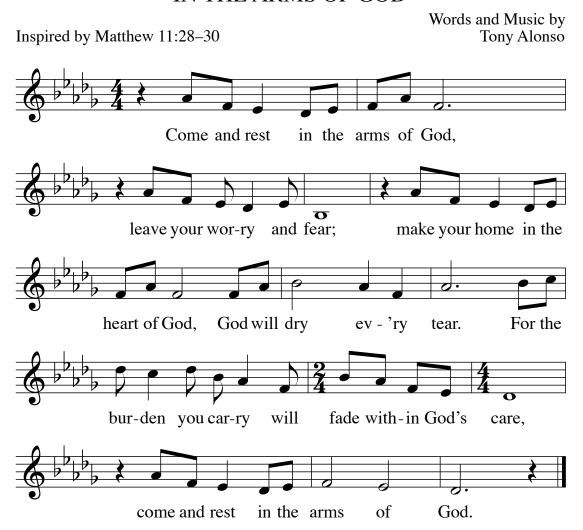
Prayers of the Faithful:

Response: Compassionate God, hear our prayer

Song at the Preparation of the Gifts: In the Arms of God, Alonso

(The collection will be for the Xavier Team AIDS WALK 2024 kick-off funding)

IN THE ARMS OF GOD

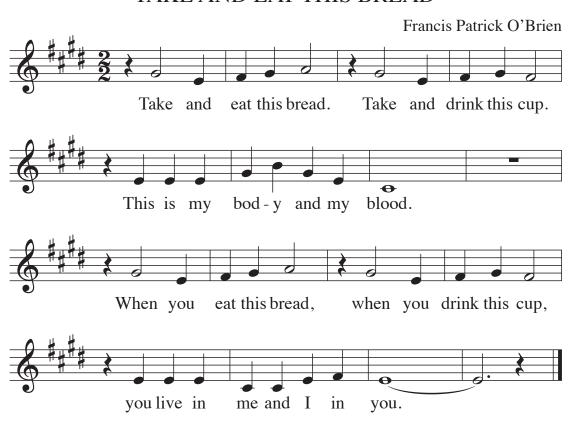


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The Communion Procession

Take And Eat This Bread by Francis Patrick O'Brien

TAKE AND EAT THIS BREAD



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- 1. This is the bread come down from heaven; This is the cup of our salvation.
- 2. Gathered as one around one table, sent forth to witness to salvation.
- 3. Within our hands we hold the myst'ry, dying and rising to salvation.
- 4. Come all who thirst for life eternal, come to the table of salvation.

Prayer after Communion

ALL:

God, open our eyes to the systems around us that oppress, hold down, and disadvantage the most vulnerable in our society, so that we may increase and abound in our love for one another and for all people.

God, open our ears to the myths, stereotypes, and lies that keep these systems going, so that we may increase and abound in our love for one another and for all people.

God, open our mouths to challenging conversations about race, sex, and differences, so that we may increase and abound in our love for one another and for all people.

God, open our hearts to the understanding that we are all affected by HIV/AIDS, so that we may increase and abound in our love for one another and for all people.

This prayer first appeared in a prayer service for World AIDS Day created by the United Church of Canada.

Benediction and Final Blessing

Song of Sending Forth: "God Has Chosen Me"



Presider: Rev. Ben Hawley, SJ Cantor: Chris Swope Director of Music: John Uehlein