

This is the Hour

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Prayer

Leader: In the name of our God who creates us anew each day,
and who sends the Spirit to enlighten and enliven us, we pray:

**Descend, Holy Spirit of Life!
Come down into our hearts that we may live.**

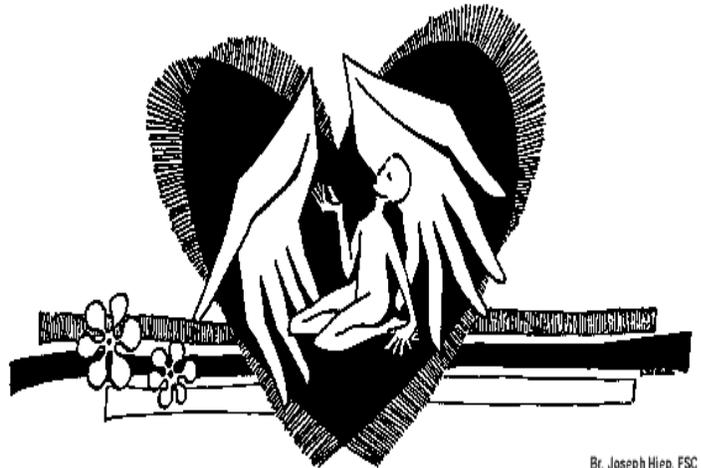
**Descend into our emptiness,
that emptiness may be filled.**

**Descend into the dust,
that the dust may flower.**

**Descend into the dark,
that the light may shine in darkness.**

**Change our tepid nature
into the warm humanity of Christ.**

Be in us a stream of life! Amen.



Br. Joseph Hiep, FSC

First Reading

(A Hopi Elder Speaks)

“You have been telling people that this is the eleventh hour.
Now you must go back and tell the people that this is the hour.
And these are things to be considered . . .

Where are you living?
What are you doing?
What are your relationships?
Are you in right relationship?

Where is your water?
Know your garden.
It is time to speak your Truth.
Create your community.

Be good to each other.
And do not look outside of yourself for the leader.”

Then he clasped his hands together, smiled and said,
“This could be a good time!
There is a river flowing now very fast.
It is so great and so swift that there are those who will be afraid.
They will try to hold onto the shore.
They will feel they are being torn apart and will suffer greatly.
Know the river has its destination.
The elders say we must let go of the shore,
Push off into the middle of the river,
Keep our eyes open, and our heads above water.
And I say, see who is in there with you and celebrate.
At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally,
Least of all ourselves.
For the moment we do,
Our spiritual journey comes to a halt.
The time of the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves!
All that we do now
Must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.
We are the ones we have been waiting for.”

REFLECTIVE SONG---Reflective Response

(to be read during reflection song)

1. Dreams come and go in our lives. Far more die than come to reality. What is it in us that allows us to let go of visions that could create new and beautiful worlds? Why do we so easily give in to barriers? Why do we let ourselves conform and be satisfied with what is?
2. Reaching out to a dream can be risky. It can involve hardships that our imaginations never knew. Our comfortableness can so easily be disturbed. But, what beauty can be experienced as we accept the challenge of a dream? What a precious feeling to be supported, to have others say “you can do it, we can do it together.”
3. Nothing is beyond our reach if we reach out together, if we reach out with all the confidence we have, if we are willing to persevere even in difficult times, and if we rejoice with every small step forward, if we dream beautiful dreams that will transform our lives, our world.
4. Nothing is impossible if we put aside our careful ways, if we build our dreams with faith—faith in ourselves, faith in our sisters and brothers, and above all, faith in God with whom all things are possible.

Shared Prayers

Closing Prayer (together)

Lord, we rejoice in this opportunity to gather in Your Name and to do so with the awareness that without Your Divine Presence here at the center of our coming together our work will be empty.

Grace is with your wisdom and vision; gift us with Holy Humor and Humility so that not only this day but all our lives may be a meeting place for your Kingdom.

Grant us the courage to be open to each other and not to be fearful of the new and different. Help us to rejoice in that which is always the same and unchanging, while finding delight in freshness and change.

Be with us Lord, as we continue to live this day and enjoy this time together, in the name of our Creator, our Redeemer and our Sanctifier. Amen!

***Saint John Baptist de La Salle...Pray for us!
Live, Jesus, in our Hearts...Forever!***