

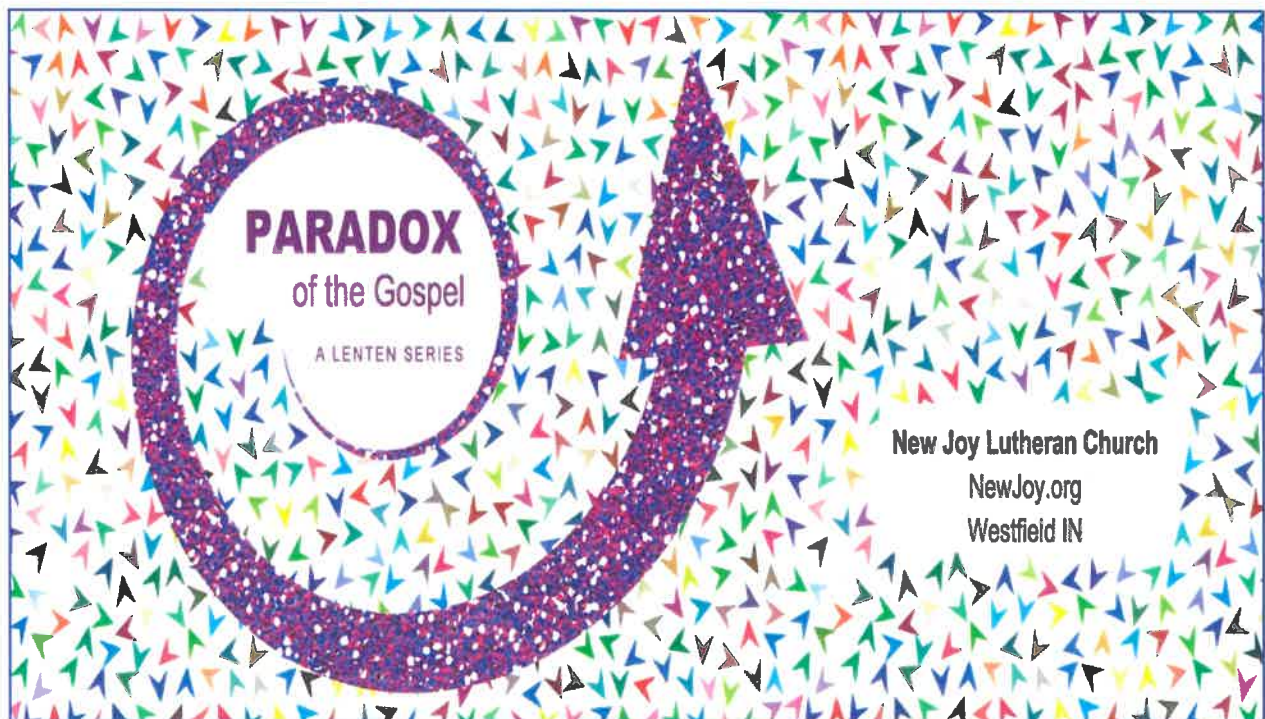


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A Congregation of Welcome, Grace, Faith and Promise

February 17, 2020



Ash Wednesday

Prelude – Have Mercy on Me, O God; Be Thou My Vision

Gathering

Psalm 51

(Verses read by the Assisting Minister, Refrain sung by congregation)

Have Mercy On Me, O God

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.

In your compassion, blot out my offense.

Wash me, O God, from the stain of my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.

Greeting

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*
Almighty and ever-living God,
you hate nothing you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and honest hearts, so that,
truly repenting of our sins,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness and,
relieved of the burden of our sins,
we may lead lives of service, sacrifice, and humility;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

AM: A reading from Joel.

Blow the horn in Zion;

give a shout on my holy mountain!

Let all the people of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming.

It is near—

² a day of darkness and no light,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread out upon the mountains,
a great and powerful army^[a] comes,
unlike any that has ever come before them,
or will come after them in centuries ahead.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your hearts,
with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow;

¹³ tear your hearts
and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD your God,
for he is merciful and compassionate,
very patient, full of faithful love,
and ready to forgive.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will have a change of heart
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?

¹⁵ Blow the horn in Zion;
demand a fast;
request a special assembly.

¹⁶ Gather the people;
prepare a holy meeting;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.

Let the groom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Between the porch and the altar
let the priests, the LORD's ministers, weep.
Let them say, "Have mercy, LORD, on your people,
and don't make your inheritance a disgrace,
an example of failure among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

R: The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

"Be careful that you don't practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²"Whenever you give to the poor, don't blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. ³But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing ⁴so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

⁵"When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. ⁶But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Restore in Us, O God, (ELW 328)

Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.

O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.

Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.

Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.

Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite

you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent--self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love--strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sins

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness,
the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to share the faith that is in us,
we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments,
our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Remembrance of Baptism

This year we are not gathering in person,
an act that is itself both a gesture of care for neighbor
and a sort of expression of penitence and self-denial.
We will not impose ashes on one another this year,
except for some ash that I will mark on our altar
as a sign of our collective repentance.

Instead, each in our homes,
we will recall with the gift of water
that our Lord washes us of our sins,
and that it is by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are given eternal
life.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth,
and washed us in the waters of baptism.

Dust and water can become a messy thing – just like our lives, our sins, our
mortality.

Renew us in the promise of our baptism,
that in this season of penitence and prayer, we would be drawn anew to
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by which we given eternal life;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Marking the sign of the cross at home)

Have Mercy On Me, O God

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.

In your compassion, blot out my offense.

Wash me, O God, from the stain of my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Send us, forgiven and renewed, to do good works
**to let our light shine before others that the world may know of your saving
love.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer

The Assisting Minister leads the congregation in the Prayers of the Church, giving thanks to God, and asking God's blessings for the church, the world, and all those in need. After each prayer petition, the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days.

Renew us in the gift of baptism,

that we may provide for those who are poor,

pray for those in need,

fast from self-indulgence,

and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

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,

forever and ever. Amen.

WE GO OUT WITH GOD'S JOY

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling (ELW 608)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain: "Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinners, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

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New Joy Lutheran Church: A Spirited Community

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.

Extend Radical Welcome

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that welcomes, values, accepts, and nurtures all people wherever they are in their relationship with God.

Share Generous Grace

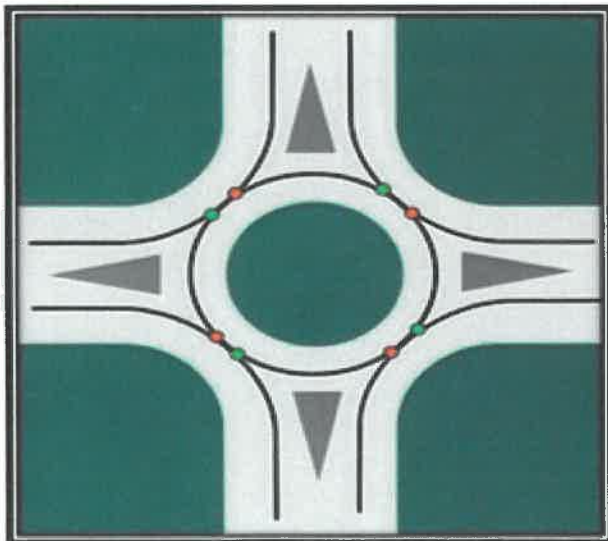
New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that freely proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

Nurture Transforming Faith

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

Live God's Promise

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.



About New Joy Lutheran Church

New Joy Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is a community of faith moved by God's Spirit. We come to New Joy from different places, with different life and faith experiences. What draws us together is the center – our Lord Jesus Christ – who welcomes us into a common life and transforming faith, and sends us out to share generous grace and boldly live God's promise.

