

 *the season of Lent at
New Joy Lutheran Church*

always

MERCY



Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Joel 2:13

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025



New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

Welcome! We are blessed by your presence among us today. This bulletin contains the outline and words for worship this morning. Please see the back pages of this bulletin for ministry announcements and additional welcome information about New Joy Lutheran Church.

Little children are always welcome in worship – even and especially when they’re a little noisy! We welcome children to worship God by toddling around, playing with toys, shaking tambourines, babbling, singing, and coming to the Lord’s Table. If little ones get too noisy during spoken parts of the service – the reading of Scripture, the sermon, or prayers – please try to quiet them or take them into the hallway for a moment to calm down. Thank you!

Our **nursery** is also available most Sundays for **children aged 5 and under**.

God’s promises are at the heart of our worship. God promises justice for the lowly, forgiveness for the sinner, hope for the despairing, and joy for the sorrowful. These promises are “the Good News of Jesus Christ,” fulfilled by Jesus’s birth as a vulnerable child, his works of liberation and grace among us, and his victory over sin, death, and injustice by his resurrection from the grave. In the songs and prayers, Scripture and preaching, you’ll hear of God’s promise for you personally, for society, for this world that God so loves.

Our worship style is patterned after centuries of tradition reaching back to some of the earliest Christian communities. Our service is structured yet also informal, shaped by tradition yet also new. We observe seasons that lift up various themes from the life of Jesus and the mission of the church. In our prayers we pray not just for ourselves but for the church; all of creation; our neighbors and our society; the sick and suffering; and, for the blessed departed. We pray seeking that God’s promises would come to us and through us to a world in need.

Holy Communion is a meal of Christ’s radical welcome, real presence, and complete forgiveness. All are welcome to receive the gift of Jesus’ body and blood in the bread and cup of Holy Communion. We use grape juice for communion, and gluten-free bread is available upon request. Not sure whether to receive communion, or how? Simply find the pastor in the communion line and ask.

Welcome. We are so glad you are with us today.

Introduction. Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God’s desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God’s people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God’s face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who “comes in the name of the Lord.”

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG – The Way

V1, C, V2, C, Bx2, Cx2

Verse 1

Through every battle
Through every heartbreak
Through every circumstance
I believe that You are my fortress
Oh You are my portion
You are my hiding place
Oh I believe You are

Chorus

The Way the Truth the Life
I believe You are
The Way the Truth the Life
I believe (You are)

Verse 2

Through every blessing
Through every promise
Through every breath I take
I believe that You are provider
You are protector
You are the One I love
I believe You are

Bridge

It's a new horizon
And I'm set on You
And You meet me here today
With mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts
They can all come too
Because they can't stay long
(When I'm here with You)
(When I believe You are)

CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

A brief silence is kept.

Merciful One,
**transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

KYRIE

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the **Lord, have mercy ...**

Response, sung by congregation:



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a sequence of notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a final quarter rest. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the **Lord, have mercy ...**

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the **Lord, have mercy ...**

Help, save, and defend us, O God.



ABSOLUTION

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

HEBREW BIBLE

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

A reading from Genesis:

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 27

℟ *In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)*

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then ^l shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ^l be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to de-^l vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum-^l ble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart ^l will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will ^l not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one ^l thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek God ^l in the temple. ℟**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will ^l give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,
and raise me high up-^l on a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ^l
who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music ^l to the Lord.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, ^l when I call;
have mercy on me and ^l answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message—** | “Seek my face.”

Your face, O Lord, | I will seek. R

⁹ Hide not your face from me,

turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper;

forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,**

the Lord will | take me in.

¹¹ Teach me your | way, O Lord;

lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will | of my foes,**

for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the Lord

in the land | of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the Lord | and be strong.**

Take heart and wait | for the Lord! R

EPISTLE

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Although Paul’s devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

A reading from Philippians:


¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.


GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Return to God

Congregation:



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and

Optional Repeat



mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

repeated; see above

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Build My Life

V1, V2, C, V1, V2, Cx2, Bx2, Cx2, Bx3

Verse 1

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever
sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever
bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever
breathe
We live for You

Verse 2

Jesus the name above ev'ry other
name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever
breathe
We live for You, **Repeat**

Chorus 1

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show
me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those
around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

MISSION STATEMENT

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each prayer petition concludes, Hear us, O God. The response is, **your mercy is great.**

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG: As The Grains Of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

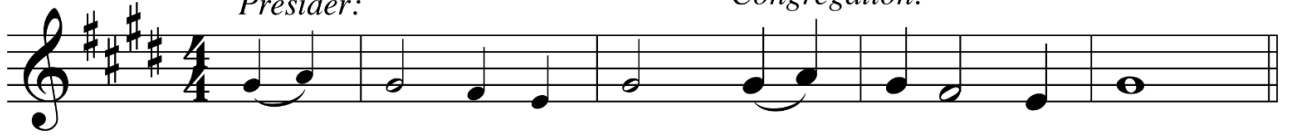
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

MEAL


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor continues with a seasonal preface to the Eucharistic Prayer.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

“Eucharist” comes from the Greek word εὐχαριστία, meaning Thanksgiving. The Eucharistic Prayer is an ancient, patterned prayer form that thanks God for God’s saving work. Listen for references to God’s promises in Creation, the Passover, the prophets, and ultimately in Jesus’ death and resurrection. The prayer then asks God’s saving work to continue to us and through us today to form communities of peace.

ACCLAMATION

During the prayer Pastor will proclaim the mystery of faith, and the congregation responds in like manner.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a-gain.

AMEN

The Eucharistic Prayer concludes with a sung Amen, and leads directly into the Lord's Prayer.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S SUPPER

In communion, Jesus gives of himself in the bread and cup to all who desire to receive. We sing while we feast, for "when we sing, we pray twice."

LAMB OF GOD

Congregation:

Congregation or Assistant:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

SENDING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

God who is Three-in-One –
our tender parent,
the crucified one,
the reconciling Spirit –
✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: Everlasting God

V, PC, C, V, PC, C

Verse 1

Strength will rise as we wait upon the
Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise as we wait upon the
Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Chorus

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint

You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

Pre-Chorus

Our God You reign forever

Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We give thanks for all who give of themselves for service to God and to this community.

The band is led by our Minister of Music, Glenn Hoffman, and includes Jim Gregory on keyboard & Karen Archbold on vocals. The Sound Board is run by Steve Castle.

	Today	Sunday, March 23
Assisting Minister	Kyle Blakley	<i>Sylvia Lux</i>
Readers	Libby Dissauer	<i>Carley Havlik</i>
Acolyte	Cate Dissauer	<i>Cate Dissauer</i>
Livestream Operator	Naaman Duckworth	<i>Phil and Annabelle Havlik</i>
Altar Guild	Jessica Allen	<i>Jessica Allen</i>
Nursery Care	Anya Verik	<i>Lucy Platt</i>
Ushers	Abigail and Andy Clark	<i>Lyn Nore and Amber Blakely</i>
Greeters	Sylvia Lux, Jennifer Platt	<i>Doug Holland and Jenny Platt</i>

We give thanks to the musicians, writers, and church ministries who create and publish much of the music, prayers, and words we use in worship.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION CLASS TRIP TO NEWFIELDS TODAY – 11:15am-3:00pm Our confirmands will explore the museum with a series of faith prompts to inspire religious reflection in a space that is both sacred and secular. Lunch at church before we depart, and following the museum tour, milkshakes!

MONTGOMERY SEND OFF – next Sunday, March 23, please join us to bid farewell and Godspeed to Dan and Jane Montgomery as they move to their new home in Glenview, Illinois! There will be a Blessing during worship and a reception following worship.


 **SIGN-UPS** for soup suppers, chili cookoff, Silverbox food deliveries, and more are available on our Church Center mobile app and online hub – newjoy.churchcenter.com. *Downloading and making use of the app – or visiting the website – it really important for how we organize our life together here at New Joy.* It helps to have the Church Center mobile app on your device. Download Church Center from your app store, or visit NewJoy.churchcenter.com for web browser. Questions? Contact Parish Administrator Nicole Williams or our Business Manager Amber Blakley.



 **LENTEN EVENING PRAYER AND SOUP SUPPERS** – We will gather for Evening Prayer each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm. A soup supper – with soup, bread, and dessert – will precede Evening Prayer on Wednesday, March 26, at 6:15pm. Volunteers are needed to provide food. Please check Church Center mobile app or our online Church Center hub – newjoy.churchcenter.com.

COFFEE HOUR is shared on the first Sunday of the month, and on other special occasions. If you would like to help with our monthly Coffee Hour, please reach out to Kristi Kittilstved.

OPEN DOORS CURRENT NEEDS – Next time you’re shopping, please remember our food-insecure neighbors. Open Doors needs are **Cereal, Oatmeal, and Shampoo**. Donations can be brought to church or taken directly to Open Doors (on the campus of Monon Trails Elementary School, Tomlinson Road, just north of 191st Street).

 **ELCA GOOD GIFTS** – Thank you to Sylvia Lux and to our Sharing Generously team for inviting us into acts of generosity and care for our neighbors overseas. This campaign will run through the end of next month! Gifts can be made in the big blue box in the narthex, or on our Church Center app or online hub, at newjoy.churchcenter.com (select “special” offering fund).

PARENTING LGBTQIA+ TWEENS AND TEENS COURSE - How to become more educated in the LGBTQIA+ space, navigate our own feelings, and improve our parenting responses. You do NOT have to be a parent to join – this is open to anyone who loves youth and wants to love them well. This class meets on Tuesdays at 6:30pm in our Sanctuary. Please contact Morgan Studer at mlhughes413@gmail.com or Jenny Platt at plattj149@gmail.com for more information and to register.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY – Starting on Tuesday, April 1st, at 6:30-8:00pm, Lyn Nore and Laurie Cupp are leading a six week evening bible study class for both men and women featuring the book *Embracing Life*. Signup today in our Narthex!

SAVE THE DATE! Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning, April 19, at 9am. More details soon!

SAVE THE DATE! NEW JOY’S 2025 VBS WEEK, “Road Trip VBS”- - Will be Sunday June 22 through Thursday June 26 from 6:00-8:00pm! - More details soon!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER – It’s only the Second Sunday in Lent but mark your calendars for Holy Week and Easter. Once again, this year we will host the full “triduum” (Latin for “Three Days”) of services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, in addition to the Easter Sunday service. These are extremely unique services marking the holiest time of year for the church.

- **Palm/Passion Sunday – April 13, 9:30am** *Hosannas and palms*
- **Maundy Thursday – April 17, 7pm** *Jesus gives his command to serve*
- **Good Friday – April 18, 7pm** *Meditating on, and venerating, the cross*
- **Vigil of Easter – April 19, 8:28pm** *Stories around the firepit*
- **Easter Sunday – April 20, 9:30am** *Christ is risen!*

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



Today, Sunday, March 16

- Worship, 9:30am
- Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship
- Confirmation Trip to Newfields, 11:15am
- Chili Cook-Off, 6:00pm
- ELCA Good Gifts

Monday, March 17

- No Preschool and Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- BSA Troops 1910/1920, 6:30-8:00pm

Tuesday, March 18

- Seasoned Believers, 9:00-10:30am, Chick Fil A in Westfield
- Preschool 3's, 9:30am
- Clergy Text Study, 10:00am-11:30am
- Parenting Teens & Tweens LGBTQIA+, 6:30-8:30pm

Wednesday, March 19

- Preschool 4's, 9:30am
- Church Office Staff Meeting, 10am
- Midweek Bible Study, 12:30-2:00pm
- Lenten Evening Prayer, 7:00pm
- Band Rehearsal, *after Evening Prayer*

Thursday, March 20

- Preschool 3's, 9:30am

Friday, March 21

- Preschool 4's, 9:30am

Saturday, March 22

Sunday, March 23

- Worship, 9:30am
- Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship
- Confirmation Class and Youth Group, 4:00-5:30pm
- Westfield Pride Choir Event, 6:00-8:00pm
- ELCA Good Gifts

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 a Radical Welcome We are a spirited community that strives to welcome, value, accept, and nurture all people wherever they are in their relationship with God. Since our founding in 2002, New Joy has been committed to welcoming people of all races, incomes, and expressions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Share a Generous Grace We are a spirited community which boldly proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

Nurture Transforming Faith We are a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

Live God's Promise We are a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.

New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

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New Joy Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

www.iksynod.org | www.elca.org

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

