

 *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

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 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. The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG – Change My Heart Oh God

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

You are the potter;
I am the clay.

Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

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:



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

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

A reading from Isaiah:

- ¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 63:1-8

℟̕ O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

℟̕ O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name. R**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. ℟̕**

EPISTLE

2 Peter 3:1-4, 8-9

2 Peter is addressed to Christians worried that the Lord won't return as promised, urging them to live with faithfulness and holiness during a time of great uncertainty. "The Lord is not slow about his promise ... but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance" (vs 9).

A reading from 2 Peter:

This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you; in them I am trying to arouse your sincere intention by reminding you ² that you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken through your apostles. ³ First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!"

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

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 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

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: Beautiful Things

V1, V2, C, V3, Cx2

Verse 1

All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really
change, at all

Verse 2

All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come up from this
ground, at all?

Chorus

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the
dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

Verse 3

All around,
Hope is springing up from this old
ground
Out of chaos life is being found, in you.

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 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

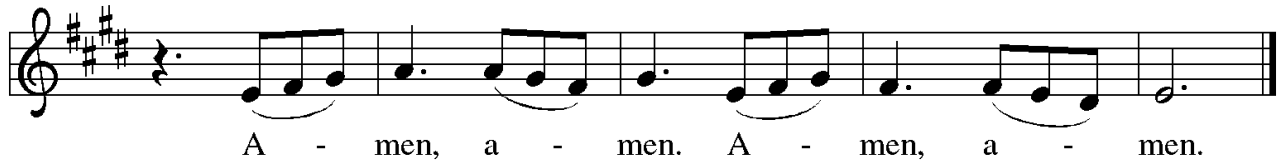
During the prayer we sing the mystery of our faith.



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.

SONG: As The Deer

V1, C, V2, C, V3, C

Verse 1

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

Chorus

You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

Verse 2

You're my friend and You are my
brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything

Verse 3

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joygiver
And the apple of my eye

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

SENDING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

FAREWELL & GODSPEED TO DAN & JANE MONTGOMERY

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING SONG: Jesus Lead On

V1, C, V2, C, B, C

Verse 1

This is my cry
This is my song
You are my guiding light
When the way is unknown
And when these sunny skies
Turn shades of gray
I'll stay close by Your side
As You lead the way

Chorus

Jesus lead on I will follow
Jesus lead on
Let Your love light the way
Jesus lead on I will follow
Jesus lead on

Verse 2

Hear now this cry
Hear now this song
You are the guiding light
For this journey I'm on
And when my vision is clouded
By the wind and the rain
I'll stay close by Your side
As You lead the way, **Chorus**

Bridge

Lead me on, **Repeat 2X**
I will follow, **Chorus**

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 30
Assisting Minister	Sylvia Lux	Chris Studer
Reader	Carly Havlik	Laura Cupp
Acolyte	Cate Dissauer	Addison Studer
Livestream Operator	Phil and Annabelle Havlik	Rich Kittilstved
Altar Guild	Jessica Allen	Jessica Allen
Nursery Care	Lucy Platt	Lucy Platt
Ushers	Lyn Nore and Amber Blakely	Chuck and Janis Studer
Greeters	Doug Holland and Jenny Platt	Jennifer Kocolowski, Lyn Nore

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

 **SIGN-UPS** for soup suppers, Silverbox food deliveries, additional Holy Week service roles, and more are available on our **Church Center mobile app and online hub.**



newjoy.churchcenter.com



Give



Events



Emails



Livestream




Directory



Downloading and making use of the app – or visiting the website – is really important for how we organize our life together here at New Joy. It helps to have the Church Center mobile app on your phone. Download Church Center from your app store, or visit NewJoy.churchcenter.com for New Joy’s Church Center hub on your web browser. Questions? Contact Parish Administrator Nicole Williams or our Business Manager Amber Blakley.

If you want to sign up for events on Church Center but do not use a computer or mobile phone, call or visit Nicole in the church office during the week to get signed up.

 **LENTEN EVENING PRAYER AND SOUP SUPPERS** – We have Evening Prayer on every Wednesday in Lent at 7pm ... and one more soup supper this Wednesday, March 26 at 6:15pm! Volunteers are needed to provide food. Please check Church Center mobile app or our online Church Center hub.

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’ current needs are **Cereal, Oatmeal, and Shampoo**. Bring donations to church or directly to Open Doors (on the campus of Monon Trails Elementary School, Tomlinson Road, just north of 191st Street).

WESTFIELD PRIDE BELONG – PLANNING MEETING – Tonight at 6:00pm, our friends at Westfield Pride Belong are planning more ways to support our marginalized friends, family, and neighbors – book clubs, events, activities, and more. Join in this meeting to lend your voice, ideas, and support.

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 Gifts can be made in the big blue box in the narthex, or on Church Center (select “special” offering fund).

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. Pancake breakfast and Egg Hunt for friends and neighbors! Check Church Center for sign-ups and this week’s Holy Week & Easter Email for full details.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER – Earlier this week we sent an email with robust details about our Holy Week and Easter Observances. Please take a look (scan this code to read it now). Sign-ups are available on Church Center.



- **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*
- **Easter Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt – April 19, 9am** *Breakfast and eggs*
- **Vigil of Easter – April 19, 8:28pm** *Stories around the firepit*
- **Easter Sunday – April 20, 9:30am** *Christ is risen!*

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! Registrations for kids and for youth and adult volunteers will open after Spring Break!

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

