

 *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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 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 Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG – Instruments Of Your Peace

C, V1, C, V2, C

Chorus

Lord make us instruments of Your
peace
Where there is hatred let Your love
increase
Lord make us instruments of Your
peace
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease
When we are Your instruments of
peace

Verse 2

Where there is blindness we will pray
for sight
Where there is darkness we will shine
His light
Where there is sadness we will bear
their grief
To the millions crying for release
We will be His instruments of peace

Verse 1

Where there is hatred we will sow His
love
Where there is injury we will never
judge
Where there is striving we will speak
His peace
To the people crying for release
We will be His instruments of peace

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.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

HEBREW BIBLE

Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

A reading from Isaiah:

- ¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 126

℞ Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

℞ Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

¹ When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
 then were we like | those who dream.
² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
 Then they said among the nations,
 “The Lord has done great | things for them.”**
³ The Lord has done great | things for us,
 and we are | glad indeed.
⁴ **Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,
 like the watercourses | of the Negeb. ℞**
⁵ Those who | sowed with tears
 will reap with | songs of joy.
⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
 will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. ℞**

EPISTLE

Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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



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

GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."



The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - repeated; see above

SERMON

ANOINTING FOR BLESSING

In today's Gospel Mary anoints Jesus with perfume as a kind of commissioning and blessing just days before he would endure the cross. For millennia the church has anointed the faithful with oil upon their baptism, in rites of healing, to commend the dying, and at other times to proclaim the blessings and promise of God. Today you are invited to receive God's blessing through anointing with oil to stir up the gift of faith, recall your baptism into Christ Jesus, and trust the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three lines of music. The first line is labeled 'Cantor' above the staff and contains the lyrics 'In this oil, in this oil, smell the fra-grance of our God, whose'. The second line is labeled 'Assembly' above the staff and contains the lyrics 'scent re - vives our hope and trust and faith— in this'. The third line is labeled 'Cantor' above the staff and contains the lyrics 'oil, in this oil, in this oil, in this oil.' The words 'in this oil' are highlighted in yellow in the original image.

We sing as we come forward to be anointed. There are up to nine verses sung by cantor, with congregation responses upon each verse.

in this oil, **in this oil** (x3)

in these hands, **in these hands** (x3)

in this prayer, **in this prayer** (x3)

We will sing throughout the anointing.`

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



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: In The Singing

V1, C, V2, C

Verse 1

In the singing, in the silence,
 in the hands expectant, open,
 in the blessing, in the breaking,
 in your presence at this table,

Verse 2

In the question, in the answer,
 in the moment of acceptance,
 in the heart's cry, in the healing,
 in the circle of your people, **Chorus**

Chorus

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
 be the wine of grace;
 Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
 be the bread of 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: I Love To Tell The Story

V1, C, V2, C, V3, C

Verse 1

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Chorus

I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
And tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and his love.

Verse 2

I love to tell the story;
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word. **Chorus**

Verse 3

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. **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	Palm Sunday, April 13,
Assisting Minister	Kristen Abbey	<i>Kristen Abbey</i>
Reader	Sylvia Lux	<i>Sylvia Lux</i>
Acolyte	Kinzi Jones	<i>Jane Abbey</i>
Livestream Operator	Rich Kittilstved	<i>Open</i>
Altar Guild	Kristi Kittilstved	<i>Morgan Studer</i>
Nursery Care		<i>Open</i>
Ushers	Kristi Kittilstved, <i>Open</i>	<i>Open, Open</i>
Greeters	<i>Open, Open</i>	<i>Open, Open</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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- **I love To Tell The Story** – by Arabella Katherine Hankey and William Gustavus Fischer, Public Domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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 to RSVP, and to sign-up to support the event.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER –Scan this QR code to read full details on our Holy Week services. Sign-ups for regular and special worship leader roles 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!

WESTFIELD PRIDE BELONG – is hosting a Ripple Effect Choir at New Joy Church on Sunday May 4 at (more details coming soon!).

JOYFUL GIRLS’ DINNER – Thursday April 10, 2025, 6pm, at Stone Creek Dining Company on Michigan Road in Zionsville, IN. Join us for a lovely evening of fellowship! Please RSVP to Charlotte West @ crwest1954@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



<p>Today, Sunday, April 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worship, 9:30am• Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship
<p>Monday, April 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Preschool – Spring Break through April 11• BSA Troops 1910/1920, 6:30-8:00pm• Radical Welcome, 7:00-8:15pm
<p>Tuesday, April 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seasoned Believers, 9:00-10:30am, Chick Fil A in Westfield• No Preschool – Spring Break• Evening Bible Study Group, 6:30-8:00pm
<p>Wednesday, April 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Preschool – Spring Break• Midweek Bible Study, 12:30-2:00pm• Lenten Evening Prayer, 7:00pm-8:00pm, <i>Band Rehearsal immediately following</i>
<p>Thursday, April 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Preschool – Spring Break• Joyful Girls' Dinner – 6:00-7:30pm, Stone Creek Dining Company, Zionsville
<p>Friday, April 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Preschool – Spring Break
<p>Saturday, April 12</p>
<p>Sunday, April 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worship, 9:30am, Palm/Passion Sunday• Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship

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

