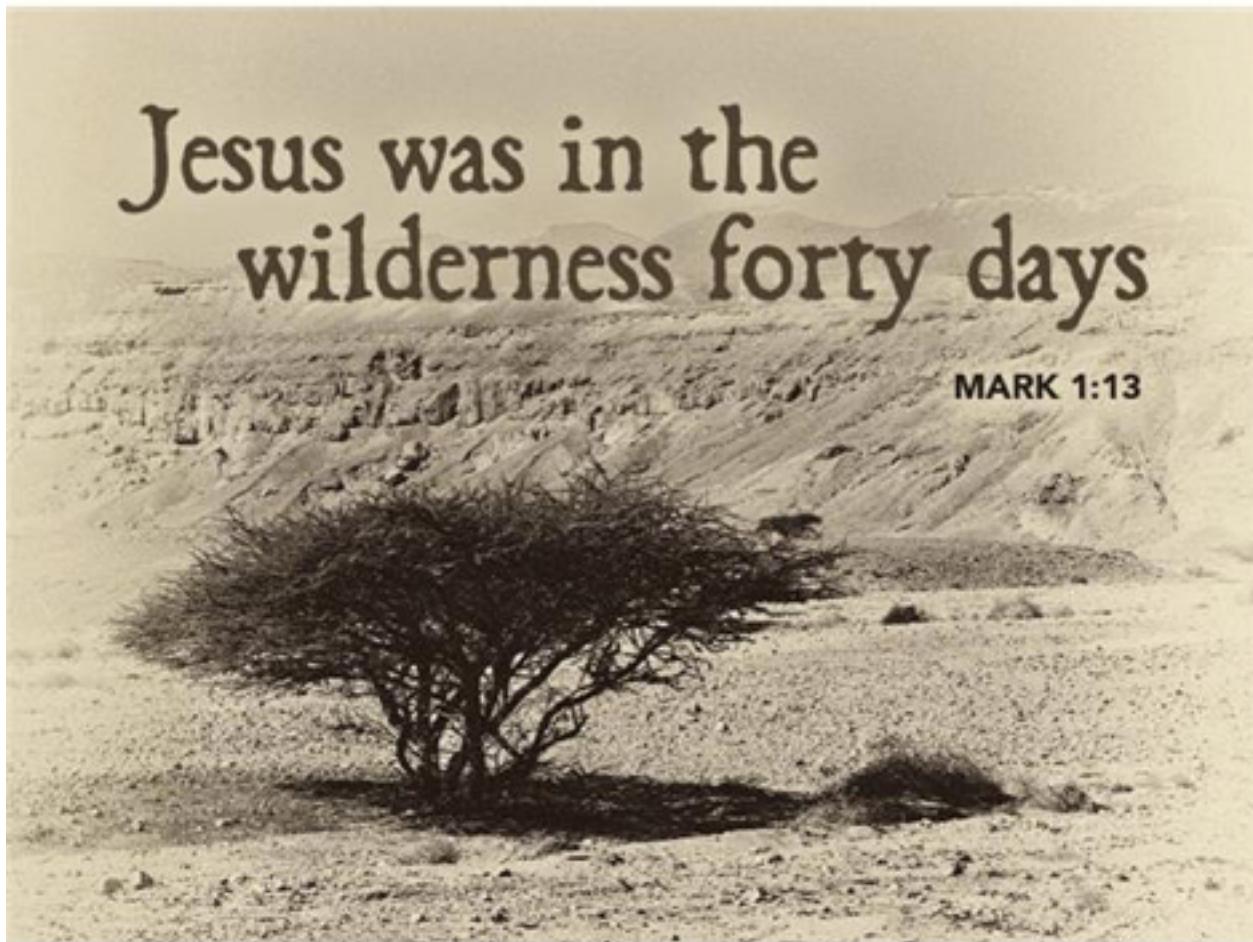


Joy Lutheran Church

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February 21, 2021



First Sunday in Lent

Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, or if your relationship status is “complicated.”

We are glad you are here if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You’re welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We welcome you if you have doubts about “organized religion” or are a “cradle Christian.” We welcome liberals, conservatives, moderates, and undecided. If you cheer for the right team, or don’t like sports, you are welcome here.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you and so do we!

Children are always welcome here. We are used to the joyful sounds of our youngest sisters and brothers. We do have some activity bags near the main entrance, to keep restless hands busy. Due to COVID-19 we discourage use of our Family Room right now.

Offering: Our offering plates are set at the entrance doors of the sanctuary. Thank you for giving of your resources to sustain the ministries here at Joy Lutheran Church.

Introduction

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Welcome

L: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you,

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;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of Jesus Christ

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may live and serve you in newness of life

to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

L: Almighty God have mercy on you,

forgive you all your sins,

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you
in eternal life.

C: Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Christ Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Cantor: In peace, in peace, to you, oh Lord, we pray.
Cong.: Lord
have mercy.

Cantor: For broken lives and broken hearts we pray
Cong: Lord have mercy.

Cantor: For the unity of your church everywhere we pray
Cong: Lord have mercy.

Cantor: That we might know the forgiveness you promise we pray
Cong: Lord have mercy.

Cantor: For your parting gift of peace, oh Lord we pray
Cong: A---men.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain: Glory to God in the high - est and peace, peace to God's people. Glory to God in the high - est and peace, peace on earth.

(Last time)

1. Let ev'-ry moun-tain shout the glo - ry of the Lord.
2. Praise to the Fath - er, we sing praise un-to the Son.

All creatures lift their hearts and praise God's ho - ly name. (to Refrain)
Praise to the Spir- it, ev - er liv - ing, pre-sent One. (to Refrain)

Salutation

L: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father,
C: **in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And

baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Sermon

Pastor Karen Sonray

Hymn of the Day

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

New Members / Apostles' Creed (*new members please come forward*)

**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 into hell.**

**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.**

We welcome you into the fellowship of Joy Lutheran Church. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to the world.

Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

(please exchange Christ's peace with a smile, nod, wave, or other non-contact sign)

Installation of Council (*please stand where you are*)

Prayers of the Church (*brief silence, then various petitions, response said after each petition*)

L: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our 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.**

Closing Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335



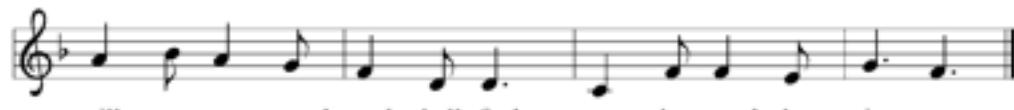
1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants for Today

Pianist: Nancy Wojnowski	Readers: Nancy Daugherty	Acolyte: Blake Phillips	Song Leader: Mona Mitton
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Flowers are given
by Scooter Bentson
in memory of her Grandma



Announcements

Welcome New Members

We welcome today Trudi Pudimat and the Phillips family - Brett and Debbie and children Brody, Blake and Harper!

Trudi is transferring her membership from the Connecticut church she belonged to for many years before moving to Alaska to be with her daughter, Renee. Trudi loves to crochet and has had a background in child development and teaching.

Brett Phillips is already a member here, having been confirmed in 1995. He works for the Fire Dept. Debbie and the children are transferring their membership from Faith Lutheran/ First Presbyterian Church in Delta Junction where Debbie was raised. Debbie is a Nurse at AK Native Medical Center, usually working with complicated births and infants. Their children all are very active in hockey and other outdoor sports. Welcome!

Welcome New and “Old” Council Members

Much thanks to our Church Council, installed today! Newly elected: Rachel Christman, Charlotte Kotlarchuk and Kristi Swain; re-elected Sue Weimer (Pres.) and continuing to serve: Tom Bird (VP), Debbie Bird, Scooter Bentson (Sec.), Corrine Finnie, Kelly Mullin, and Heather Slocum. In addition, Clarke Hemphill continues on as Treasurer.