

Joy Lutheran Church

10111 E. Eagle River Loop Road, Eagle River, AK 99577

Office: 907.694.9601 www.joy-lutheran.com joylutheran@gmail.com

June 13, 2021

**The birds of the air
make nests in its shade**

MARK 4:32



Third Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, and all families in their variety of rich expressions.

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.

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.

Joy Lutheran Church

Third Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 13, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m.

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

Welcome & Announcements

Tom (VP) & Debby Bird, Church Council

Apostolic Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

L: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

L: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

L: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, + the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. O God,

C: **you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
 from the lofty top of a cedar;
 I will set it out.
 I will break off a tender one
 from the topmost of its young twigs;
 I myself will plant it
 on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel
 I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
 and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
 in the shade of its branches will nest
 winged creatures of every kind.
²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
 that I am the Lord.
I bring low the high tree,
 I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
 and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken;
 I will accomplish it.

Psalm

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,
 to sing praise to your name, O Most High;
²**to herald your love in the morning
 and your faithfulness at night;**
³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
 and to the melody of the harp.
⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;
 and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**
¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
 and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
 shall flourish in the courts of our God;**
¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
 they shall be green and succulent;
¹⁵**that they may show how upright the Lord is,
 my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commanding ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Gospel Announcement

L: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is

the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Gospel Response

L: The gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon

Rev. Martin Atrops

Hymn

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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 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.**

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

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayers.**

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.

Passing of the Peace

P: 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)

Benediction

Sending Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



Flowers are given
by Lois Lester
in celebration of her birthday (today!)



Worship Assistants for Today					
Pianists:	Readers:	Preacher:	Lay Assistant:	Acolyte:	Counters:
Nancy Wojnowski	Trudi P. & Lori A.	Martin Atrops	Lori Atrops		Heather Slocum
Preview Of Upcoming Week					
Sunday, June 13	9:30 AM 6:00 PM	Worship Boy Scout Troop 219			
Monday, June 14	6:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous			
Tuesday, June 15	6:30 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous			
Wednesday, June 16	6:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous			
Thursday, June 17	6:30 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous			
Friday, June 18	6:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous			
Saturday, June 19					
<i>The Following Week:</i>					
Sunday, June 20	9:30 AM	Worship			

Regular Church Office Hours

Closed Mondays

Tues. - Wed. 10:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday 10:00am - 4:00pm

Closed Fridays

Special Office Notice

The office will be closed Thursday, June 17, and the week of June 21st. Please contact a church council member if you need anything during that time.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS	
Sue Weimer, Pres.	Tom Bird, Vice Pres.
Scooter Bentson, Sec.	Debby Bird
Corrine Finnie	Kelly Mullin
Rachel Christman	Heather Slocum
Kristi Swain	Charlotte Kotlarchuk
	Clarke Hemphill, Treasurer

The next Church Council Meeting will be Wednesday, July 14 at 7:00pm.